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AND

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BIRTHS.

At Foochow, on the 24th February, the wife of G. SIEMSEN, H.G.M.'s Consul, of a son.

On the 3rd March, at No. 1, Queen's Gardens, the wife of ARNOLD FUCHS, of a son.

At 3, Kimberley Villas, Kowloon, on the 9th March, the wife of A. MACKENZIE, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 1st March, 1899, at the British Episcopal Church, Foochow, and afterwards at H.B.M.'s Consulate, EVERARD DUNCAN HOME FRASER, H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul, Pagoda Island, to CONSTANCE, second daughter of A. W. WALKINSHAW, Esquire, Foochow. No cards.

DEATHS.

At Manila, on the 17th February, ALFRED ARNOLD, late of Japan and Straits Settlements, aged 32 years.

At West Volcano Light Station, on the 24th February, FERDINAND RUDOLF SCHULZ, Light-keeper-in-charge, aged 42 years.

At No. 70, Bluff, Yokohama, on the 25th February, EDWARD DARE NICHOLSON, second son of J. C. NICHOLSON, of the Hongkong Bank, aged 11 months.

At 55, Szechuen Road, Shanghai, on the 26th February, 1899, CARL L. G. Z-DELIUS, M.D., aged 47 years.

At her residence, No. 23, Quinson Road, Shanghai, on the 28th February, 1899, at 9.30 p.m., JUDITH MARIA GUTTERRES E ROZA, the dearly beloved wife of Leopoldo Maria de Roza, aged 23 years.

At the Peak Hospital, Hongkong, on the 9th March, Captain JOSEPH HOGG, of Manila, aged 50 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 3rd February arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, on the 4th March (29 days); the American mail of the

2nd February arrived, per P. M. steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, on the 7th March (33 days); and the German mail of the 6th February arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Bayern*, on the 7th March (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The entertainment allowance of the Governor of the Straits Settlements is to be increased by \$3,000 a year.

Commodore Powell, with Mrs. Powell and family, arrived by the English mail steamer *Chusan* on Saturday, to relieve Rear-Admiral Holland. Rear-Admiral Holland, with Mrs. Holland and family leaves for home by the next English mail steamer.

A terrible occurrence took place at the power station of the Bangkok Tramways. A firewood boat was moored below the waste steam pipe, and the steam and boiling water were poured over the unfortunate men sleeping in her in the early morning as they were asleep. Both men were fearfully injured and have since died.

According to a Peking dispatch the electric railway between the Machiapu terminus and the Yungting-gate of Peking will be ready for traffic by the 10th of March next. With reference to the Lu-Han railway, at the end of the Chinese year about four miles of that new road had already been laid outside of the Paotingfu terminus.—*N. C. Daily News*.

At a fire which occurred at Shanghai on the 3rd March, in Tsapoo Road, West Hongkew, three houses were gutted and two damaged. Unfortunately, the conflagration was attended with serious loss of life, three bodies, namely, that of a man of 32, a boy of 8, and a girl of 5 years of age horribly burnt and mutilated, being found huddled together amongst the debris.

The *Straits Times* of the 27th February says:—The *Archer* left somewhat suddenly early yesterday morning. On Saturday afternoon there was a rumour current that either the *Immortalité* or the *Archer* was to leave for some destination unknown, and later in the evening the *Archer*'s engineers were ordered to have steam up by 5 a.m. next day, when the ship proceeded to Tanjong Pagar and coaled. Her destination, when she left later on in the morning, was not made known, but there was a general belief that she had sailed, under sealed orders, for Palawan, where there may possibly be some trouble with the natives.

The *Avenir du Tonkin*, in an article on the prospective occupation of Hainan by France, suggests as one means of securing a right of intervention in the island that the Pope should be asked to cut it off from the Bishopric of Macao and the operations of the Portuguese missionaries and transfer the field to French missionaries. This, says our contemporary, "would not only be to the advantage of the Church itself, but also, which is of more importance to us, it would give France a means of creating French interests throughout the whole island, which would serve on occasion as a basis for our political or military designs." (*Prêts à seconder à l'occasion nos desseins politiques ou militaires*.) No wonder the Chinese are suspicious of the Roman Catholic missionaries when the ulterior designs of the French protectorate are thus proclaimed from the house tops.

A suit is pending in the Supreme Court, instituted by representatives of Aguinaldo, to determine the ownership of a sum of \$200,000 placed on deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

A Russian School was opened on the 25th February at Tientsin, specially built in its own grounds, owing to the fact that "it was the Russian Minister's desire to have it so"—at least, so it is reported amongst the Chinese in that port. It seems that a class for the study of Russian was added to the English school at the Eastern Arsenal, but Viceroy Yü Lu was asked by the Russian officials to provide separate funds for the building and maintenance of an independent Russian School or College.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The liability of the Insurance Companies in connection with the recent fires at Manila is being discussed. The *Manila Times* says:—Most, if not all, of the ordinary fire insurance policies state explicitly that there is to be no claim in case of fires due to "war or civil commotion of any kind." This, as far as we can see, leaves no room for discussion at all. It seems to us to completely exempt the insurance companies from all liability under ordinary fire policies on property destroyed in the recent conflagrations in Manila. As to whether the United States Government can be called on to pay for the loss, that is a question less easy to answer. In fact, a decision will probably not be arrived at until after long and careful investigation by able jurists. There are innumerable arguments and precedents both for and against. Our own opinion is that the Government, having assumed responsibility for the maintenance of order in Manila, is liable for loss caused by these fires, but the Government may argue that, if this principle were accepted unreservedly, everybody in the country and many outside of it have lost by the disturbances and might claim on the same ground.

It is now known definitely by wire, says the *N. C. Daily News* of the 2nd March, that Mr. George Jamieson, O.M.S., will not return to Shanghai, having retired from the Consular Service, which loses in him one of the best men it has ever numbered in its ranks, and a man most popular both privately and as an official. Mr. Jamieson entered the Service as a student interpreter, after a competitive examination, in 1864, and became a 3rd-class assistant in 1867, a 2nd-class in 1869, and a 1st-class in 1872. In his service of nearly thirty-five years he has been at Taiwan, Chefoo, Pagoda Island, and Yokohama, where he was Acting Judge for a year and a-half, having been called to the Bar in 1880. At Shanghai he has been at various times Acting Law Secretary, Acting Assessor, Acting Interpreter, Acting Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court, Assistant Judge, Acting Judge, and Consul-General, the post which he was occupying with that of Commercial Attaché when his health broke down and he had to go home on leave. He lost his wife, who was most highly respected and valued in Shanghai, some three years ago, and of his three daughters two are now married. Although it has been feared that Mr. Jamieson's health would not allow him to come back to work, the knowledge that he has definitely resigned comes as a distinct blow, and the best wishes of everyone who knows him will go with him in his retirement.

FOREIGN MERCHANTS AT THE OUTPORTS AND IN THE INTERIOR.

(Daily Press, 4th March.)

The ignorance in Europe on the subject of China is truly appalling. In a late *Times* appears a communication from Berlin in which it is stated that a number of guilds and Chinese at Amoy are anxious to assume German nationality and that the German Consul there has referred the matter home, and we are asked to accept this as a proof of the estimation in which the Germans are held by the Chinese. No doubt the Germans in China are as much respected and appreciated by the Chinese as the British or any other European race, but the contention that that respect is shown by the Chinese wishing to assume German nationality is to reduce the thing to a farce. Putting aside the absurdity of a "guild" assuming or taking any nationality, the Chinese, as everyone familiar with them knows, when they seek foreign nationality are anxious to obtain its cover, not out of respect for foreigners, but either to escape taxation or to gain protection from their own officials. In proof of this statement let the following be tried. Give the Amoy merchants the German nationality they covet, then let the German Government put a tax on those merchants' ships and on the goods and produce they deal in; the tax to be slightly in excess of what they can get through the lekin with or what it would cost them to secure British nationality by paying a British subject to lend them his name. Then let a census of the German subjects be taken. The number of Chinese who would register as such would, we fancy, be small when compared with those who would elect to remain Chinese or be the authorized agents of British firms or individuals! It is useless to trespass on our readers' time and patience by illustrations of imaginary cases when in their every day experience they meet real ones of the kind; but the public at home come under a different category, and we have no doubt but that to many of them the impression was conveyed of a large and influential body of Chinese longing to place themselves under the banner of the Fatherland, actuated thereto by an admiration of that country and its institutions. The publication of paragraphs such as the one above referred to serves to increase the delusions and perplexities surrounding the subject of China, a subject on which it is important that the fullest and clearest light should be thrown.

Nor is the act of conveying wrong impressions confined to the newspapers. Professor DOUGLAS—quite unwittingly we admit—is engaged in the same and, where ignorance is so general, not too difficult a task. In his speech before the London Institution he is reported to have said "A great disinclination, possibly a natural one, had also been shown by merchants to take up their residence at the outports, and at several of the treaty ports not a single British merchant was to be found. It was high time that it should be recognized that it was only by personally pushing the trade at the treaty ports and as far inland as possible that our merchants could expect to add considerably to the volume of British commerce." Then follows something about the difficulty of learning Chinese being exaggerated. Again:—"Though by the Chefoo Convention the right of navigating the Yangtze Kiang from Ichang to Chungking was accorded to foreigners only one steamer had ever attempted the passage." He

later adds:—"If the passage of the Yangtze Kiang above Ichang was to be made really navigable the British Government must with the consent of the Tsungli Yamen undertake the conservancy of the river. A little dynamite would soon clear away the rocks which are the main sources of peril." We will not dispute Professor DOUGLAS's technical knowledge of the application of dynamite to the Yangtze rapids, though we have an impression that the Sin-tan, the Tatung, and Shantapiu rapids—consisting as they do of vast masses of rock which in the winter form islands and in summer, with a rise of 60 feet in the river, are those most dangerous obstacles to navigation, namely rocks just awash—will try the greatest engineering skill before they can be overcome; but be that as it may, according to the Professor's own showing until something in the nature of dynamite is applied they can't be made "really navigable," and in the meantime it is not to be wondered at that the shipowner does not think the amount to be earned in freight is equal to the risks his vessel would run when making the passage. In fact the merchant's reply to both of the above contentions is short, sharp, and decisive. He says, "it doesn't pay," and in those few words the whole situation is summed up. One would imagine from speeches like the one we are dealing with and also from some of our Consular Reports that the panacea for all evils in China is for the merchant to learn Chinese and reside in an outport. It does not seem to strike these theorists that the merchant is quite willing to go anywhere and do anything the Government will allow him, provided he can make a profit, and that it is because he is unable to make a profit that he shows a disinclination to reside at the outports. Professor DOUGLAS admits that the disinclination is "possibly a natural one." It is difficult to conceive a more natural one in view of the reason the merchant gives.

The same authority tells us that it is only by personally pushing the trade at the treaty ports and as far inland as possible that our merchants can expect to add to the volume of British commerce. There are one or two phrases here which would be more useful if their meaning were more clearly defined. For instance, what does he mean by "pushing" and "as far inland as possible?" A, a British merchant, lives at, say, Samshui, and imports cotton yarn there. B, a Chinese merchant, does the same. It costs A to live at Samshui \$100 per month, board and lodging. It costs B, say, \$30. For the sake of argument we will say that it costs both the same to get their yarn up to Samshui in the way of freight and duty. Both can send their goods into any part of China under a transit pass. Both accompany their goods to, say, Yunnan. The foreigner, even if he goes in the same junk, will probably require separate accommodation and his expenses at the lowest estimate will amount to \$1 per day. The Chinaman will spread his mat with the junk master and live on 20 to 30 cents per day. On arrival at their destination the never failing "tsoli" or "loti shui" is levied; both protest against it. After a few days the Chinese merchant compounds with the lekin, pays up, and goes back to Samshui. The foreigner won't pay, stops a month (cost at least \$40) to see it is not levied, then goes away. As soon as he has left the lekin levy the "tsoli" in full on the Chinese holder of the goods. He writes to the foreign merchant who sold them. The foreign merchant goes to his Consul. The Consul says "If the same goods

"not under transit pass are subject to tsoli so are yours, not otherwise. Bring me proof that the goods are not subject to tsoli and I will take up the case." Which will lay his goods down in Yunnan the cheaper, the foreigner or Chinese? The reply is obvious. Is this what Professor DOUGLAS means by "pushing" and "as far inland as possible"? There is a gentleman not unconnected with the cotton thread trade who speaks Chinese well and who goes into the interior establishing, so it is reported, agencies for the sale of thread. He, we remember, was held up in one of the Consular reports as the model for other merchants to imitate. It is of course not our business to enquire into private individuals' affairs, but we fancy that if the gentleman's accounts were gone into his expenses would be found to exceed his gains from the sale of thread, and that it is as an advertising agent for a powerful syndicate, who are content to drop money for the time being with the object of creating a demand for their goods, rather than as a merchant, that he travels. Whether the syndicate will ever recover the amount so expended is a question time alone will solve?

It is far from our intention to infer that there is nothing for foreign merchants to do at the treaty ports or in the interior when they are allowed to reside in the latter. On the contrary, with an honest administration at Peking they can undertake any and all big concerns which the Chinese themselves are unable to organize or work, such as mining, railways, manufactures, steamship lines, &c., but until the British Government take up the financial reform of the country the foreigner is likely to find his efforts to engage in any of these either thwarted completely or else hampered by such vexatious restriction and regulation that the same result will be arrived at. The ridiculous and absurd Mining Regulations issued by the Tsungli Yamen and the restrictions imposed on the opening of inland waters, making both impossible as enterprises for the safe investment of capital, are samples of these. To neither of these exceedingly important points does Professor DOUGLAS refer, other-wise than by informing us that by steam navigation on the inland waters a vast saving would be made in time!

ITALY'S CONCESSION IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 6th March.)

The first authentic intimation of any formal demand being made by Italy for a concession in China is contained in Reuter's message of the 2nd instant published in our columns to-day. This is not exactly an announcement, but merely a comment on what is apparently supposed to be a well known fact. *The Times* in an article "sympathises with the Italian demand for concessions in the Chekiang province, and says that it hopes the British Foreign Office will grasp the true condition of affairs before it is too late, as China is breaking up, and the future lies with the nations who understand what to do." The nearest approach to any indication of Italian activity in this part of the world was previously confined to the statement made by Reuter on the 23rd ult. that "Italy will form a naval division for China and increase the number of her Consuls in that country." The latest message, of the 3rd inst., informs us that the concession asked for is in Sanmun Bay, and that Great Britain approved of the demand. The entrance to Sanmun Bay is twenty miles W.N.W. of the Hieshan Islands, and from the description in the *China Pilot* the bay appears to be a

valuable harbour. What has influenced Italy in making this demand it is difficult to say precisely, seeing that she has little money to squander in a policy of adventure, but it is natural enough that England should welcome and support the co-operation of any friendly Power in the opening up of China. The more free ports like Hongkong that are to be found along the China coast, whatever flag may float over them, the better, for each will help in the work of developing and enlightening the country and preparing it for the new regime that will be established on the breaking-up of the Empire as it exists to-day. It is not unlikely that Austria will follow the example of Italy and will also ask for the concession of some bay or harbour. Spheres of influence are indeed becoming a fact and it is worthy of notice that the leading London paper is now advocating a course of policy distinctly antagonistic to the general conception of the "open door," of which so much has been heard of late and of which the *Times* was formerly so vigorous an advocate. The planting of foreign establishments at various points along the coast will, however, give us a much more open door for trade than would the policy of preserving China in her natural exclusivism.

THE POLICY OF "DRIFT."

(Daily Press, 6th March.)

In these days, when we find the Open Doorites and advocates of the Spheres of Influence violently opposing each other in the advocacy of their respective policies but uniting in the opinion that England must "do something," and do it at once, that she must lay down a decided policy and resolutely adhere to it, it may be worth while considering whether after all there may not be something to be said in favour of "sitting tight" and preserving freedom of action for contingencies as they arise. This is usually spoken of as a policy of drift, and it is the correct thing to profess contempt for it, but when the current is favourable one may do worse than drift along with it. And notwithstanding all the Jeremiads of the past two or three years and the "good hearty denunciations of Lord SALISBURY" that have been indulged in by excitable Jingoes, it must be confessed that the recent current of events in China has not been unfavourable to British interests. Manchuria has passed under Russian influence, certainly, and is possibly destined to become a Russian province, but there is nothing in that to cause surprise or distress amongst Englishmen. Expansion of Russia in that direction was foreseen as a possibility a couple of centuries ago; the possibility gradually became translated into a probability; and it is now in course of realisation as a certainty. Manchuria is to be linked up with the Siberian railway system and ere many years have passed we shall see cities springing up along the coast which will exhibit the same vitality and rapidity of expansion as characterise the cities of the Pacific coast of the United States and Canada. The country behind, now given over to brigandage and misrule, will come under systematic cultivation, its mineral resources will be exploited, and the trade of the country will undergo a vast development, to the great benefit of the world at large, including Great Britain. England has never desired Manchuria for herself, and she can have no reason to oppose its opening up and development by Russia. Under exclusively Chinese rule Manchuria was of comparatively little

value to the world, but under the active exercise of foreign influence it will become a great producing centre with a corresponding capacity for consumption. It is not for England, as the greatest trading nation in the world, to oppose such a desirable consummation.

When we come further south, to China proper, it is to be preferred that the development of the country should take place under British influence, or the influence of Powers whose policy is in conformity with Great Britain's. Such a Power is Germany, and she, by claiming Shantung as her sphere of influence, has interposed herself as a wedge between our sphere of influence in Central China and the Russian sphere in Manchuria, thus preventing the further southward march of the Northern Power. No arrangement could well be more satisfactory to England and we hope it may prove equally satisfactory to Germany. It is possible that Russia may come as far south even as Peking and annex the metropolitan province outright, but having done that she will find herself in touch with the German sphere in Shantung and the British sphere in Shansi, and there she must perforce stop. The *Times*, which until the other day was all in favour of bolstering up China, now recognises that the country is breaking up, and a similar conversion, we note, has taken place in the *N. C. Daily News*. The preservation of the integrity of China by Great Britain was from the outset an unworkable and absurd policy, and we are glad to see that it has at last been dropped by its chief exponents in the home and China press. But judging from the telegram in another column the *Times* is still of opinion that we ought to "do something" and do it speedily. The *Times* having itself been so far wrong before in its judgment of what that something ought to be, it might have occurred to it that it might be prudent to wait a little longer and let events mature still further. There is no need to lay down a definite policy, proclaim it to the world, and court powerful opposition, when the course of events is naturally running in our favour. China is breaking up, as the *Times* says, but England need not join in hastening the process and thereby possibly prevent the desirable reconstruction that is already almost in sight.

With Manchuria lopped off China, and Chihli lying at the mercy of Russia, it will become necessary to remove the capital, and Nanking will probably be the site selected. With the capital situated within our own sphere of influence we will then be able to exercise a more direct and effective influence than we could ever have done at Peking and will be able to play in China the beneficent part we have done in Egypt. In the meantime England's policy is to "sit tight" and keep her head cool. The *Times* and the *N. C. Daily News* may agitate for the "open door" one day and for "spheres of influence" the next, and our Shanghai contemporary may keep up its "good hearty denunciations of Lord SALISBURY," but the veteran statesman seems to have a well balanced grip of the China question and will see it safely through.

At the Magistracy on Saturday a private in the Royal Artillery named Peter Hutchinson was charged with deserting on the 17th of last month. P.C. Garrod said that he came across defendant in Queen's Road on Friday night wearing plain clothes and a wideawake hat, and took him to the Central Police Station. The man was handed over to an escort to be dealt with by Court Martial. His past record is not a satisfactory one. He was dismissed the service in Malta, but re-enlisted and was sent out here.

THE NEWCHWANG TRADE RETURNS.

(Daily Press, 10th March.)

The foreign trade of China for the year 1898 was the largest on record. The Customs report and annual returns have not yet been issued, but the quarterly returns give us figures for the various ports, from which the progress made by each may be gauged. Special interest attaches to the Newchwang returns, in view of Russian activity in that quarter and of Lord CHARLES BERESFORD's declaration, in connection with the open door question, that in the North the door had already been "shut," "absolutely shut." That singular declaration was made at Shanghai, and his Lordship took the opportunity in one of his speeches at Hongkong of rectifying it and explaining that it was only made with reference to the railway question; but even so, it turns out to have been quite wrong, for the railway from Shanhaikwan to Newchwang is, after all, to be constructed with British capital raised through the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. Lord CHARLES BERESFORD's unfortunate expression affords an example of the danger of using imperfectly understood catch phrases.

As was to be expected, the activity prevailing at Newchwang is reflected in the trade returns. The shipping entered during the last three years has been as follows:—1896, 332,208 tons; 1897, 865,482 tons; and 1898, 413,885 tons. The amount of duties collected shows a similar progression, the figures for 1896 being Tls. 566,702; for 1897, Tls. 568,547, and for 1898, Tls. 634,236. The increase has been greater in exports than in imports, the import market having been adversely affected in the earlier part of last season by extreme stringency of money and fears as to the outturn of the crops, but during the latter part there was a marked revival. The figures as published, however, only tell part of the tale, the vessels conveying railway material not being subject to the Customs regulations and therefore not being included in the returns, but trade of that kind must contribute its quota to the prosperity of the port. Foreign merchants established at Newchwang cannot have much reason as yet to regret or oppose Russia's appearance upon the scene, that being the principal cause of the increased activity of the port; nor is it likely that they will have cause to regret it in the future, for whatever political changes may take place the British Government may be trusted, under the influence of public opinion, to see that all commercial privileges hitherto enjoyed by British subjects shall remain intact.

THE CHINAMAN AS A SOLDIER.

(Daily Press, 8th March.)

What kind of prospect there would be of Chinese troops drilled and organized by European officers proving as reliable as, say, Indian troops, some notes in the letters of correspondents to our Shanghai morning contemporary from the interior rather strikingly indicate. One correspondent, writing from Kiangyin, near which city there are bands of marauders who set the authorities at defiance, says, speaking of the troops stationed there:—"The German drilled troops from Woosung came here less than a year ago. When they arrived they were a clean, smart looking lot of men—clearly showing their training. Their instructors had just been sent packing. The same lot of men make a worse, if possible, general appearance to-day than the native drilled troops who are camped

"alongside them." They are very much of a kidney with the sow "that was washed;" they have returned to the mire. It is little use drilling Chinese soldiers or attempting to teach them the art of war unless it be intended to retain them under Western drill. So long as European officers are in command with full power to punish offences against discipline, and who at the same time have the co-operation of European non-commissioned officers, they may keep Chinese troops fairly up to the mark. At Weihaiwei possibly the experiment may answer so long as it is on a small scale, but we doubt either its propriety or its safety if made on a larger scale. The Chinese find discipline odious and irksome; they have no martial enthusiasm, no *esprit de corps*, no sentiment apart from their pay. If they serve at all it will be for the sake of receiving good and regular pay; and it is very certain that, given a temptation to do so, they would desert readily on an offer of better terms. Moreover, military life seems to have anything but an improving effect upon the Chinese coolie. It transforms him from a stupid kind of sheep into a bravo and a bully, ready to terrorise the peaceful inhabitants of the district in which he is located in order to levy blackmail from them. The Chinese "brave" is notoriously a terror wherever he goes. This is partly due, perhaps, to the fact that he is usually impecunious—suffering from want of regular pay; partly from natural rowdiness and brutality, characteristics which are conspicuous in all city mobs in the Celestial Empire. The Ichang correspondent of our contemporary, referring to the rebellion in Szechuen and the passage through that port of soldiers to assist in suppressing it, says that these troops behaved very badly to the people of Honung and Tanyang, through which they passed. "The rebels," he adds, "could not be more dreaded than the Imperial troops. From the lips of one man, who came from the district, I was told the soldiers demanded goods from shops without payment, forced teashop and restaurant keepers to provide food, ravished women, and behaved in an extremely bad way." Whether these same troops would have refrained from these excesses had they been under foreign discipline it is hard to say; probably they would have been more under control, but the experience of the decadence of the German drilled troops from Woosung seems to indicate that they would relapse into brutality so soon as the restraining hand of the European officer was withdrawn. On the whole, the more the scheme is considered, the less does Lord CHARLES BERESFORD's plan for reorganising the Chinese army commend itself to us. There is great doubt as to the permanent value of the experiment, as a measure for upholding order and repressing brigandage; and there is the undoubted danger of forging a weapon for use by the Chinese Government against foreigners. The good to be derived is less manifest than the risk that seems to attend the project.

H.M.S. *Brisk*, a cruiser of the third-class, arrived at Singapore on the 26th February from Plymouth, which port she left on November 30th. She is a ship of 1,770 tons, and carries six guns and a crew of 178 men, and is commanded by Capt. Robt. B. S. Wrey. Her other officers are Lieutenants N. L. Stanley and P. A. H. Underwood (R.N.R.), Paymaster F. C. Leonard, Chief Engineer E. J. Edgar, Sub-Lieut. R. H. R. Mackay, Surgeon J. Shand-M.B., Engineer A. P. L. Dupen, and Gunner E. Roper.

THE SANITARY BOARD AND CONTROL OF THE SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

(Daily Press, 7th March.)

At the meeting of the Sanitary Board held on Thursday last a letter was read from the Colonial Secretary stating that His Excellency the Governor was not prepared for the present to adopt the recommendation of the Board with respect to the slaughter-houses. At a meeting of the Board held on the 2nd February the following resolution was passed:—"That the Board recommend the Government to transfer the management and control of the slaughter-houses of the colony to the Sanitary Board upon the expiration of the present lease to the farmer." This recommendation meets with a rejection on the part of the Government, no reasons being assigned for such rejection. The use of the words "at present" in the Government's reply leads, however, to the conclusion that the rejection is only temporary and is made in view of the prospective reconstruction of the Sanitary Board on a wider and more popular basis. We are led to this conclusion because it is impossible to conceive of any reasons of good government which would justify the continuance of the present farming system. That system is unmitigatedly bad. The Hon. F. H. MAY, speaking at the meeting of the Sanitary Board at which the resolution in question was passed, said:—"It seemed to him a monstrous thing that the slaughter-houses, where the whole meat supply of this large and important colony was slaughtered, should be under the absolute control of a Chinese farmer. Recent experiences had shown them what grave abuses crept in under the present arrangement. Mr. OSBORNE and himself were appointed a committee to enquire into these abuses, and in their opinion such things could not be put a stop to until the Board had sole control of the slaughter-houses." Yet the Government declines to give the Board such control. The only reasonable explanation of the refusal is that administrative changes are impending and it is deemed desirable to postpone the transfer of the management of the slaughter-houses until those changes have taken effect. We cannot, in the absence of any information as to the nature and probable date of the changes, recognise the explanation as a sufficient one, for if the Sanitary Board were reconstructed, or a Municipal Council formed, the new body would naturally take over the machinery of the existing Board as a going concern and there would be no dislocation of the routine work. It would be well, however, if one of the unofficial members of the Legislative Council would afford the Government an opportunity of definitely stating its position in this matter by asking for a statement of the reasons on which the rejection of the Sanitary Board's recommendation is based. The question is of some importance, not only as affecting the food supply, but also as affecting the character of the administration. The farmer is said to make out of the business eight or nine thousand dollars a year, which sum under a proper system ought either to go into the public revenue or to be utilised in lowering the fees and so reducing the price of food. If the Government pronounces in favour of the present system and declines to give reasons justifying its choice unfavourable inferences might be drawn.

SUPREME COURT.

3rd March.
IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

A PROMISSORY NOTE TRANSACTION.

In this case Bernardino de Senna Fernandes, Count de Senna Fernandes, sought to recover from Cassum Moosa the sum of \$4,500 paid to the National Bank of China under a promissory note for which his late father was guarantor.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Gedge) appeared for plaintiff and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Hursthouse) for defendant.

Mr. Robinson resumed the cross-examination of Viscount Fernandes, and on his concluding Mr. Francis announced that that was the case for plaintiff.

Mr. Robinson contended that no case had been made out, that no answer was required, that plaintiff had not shifted the onus which lay on him in the first instance on to defendant. In regard to the way in which the note came to be signed, evidence did not bear out the allegations of the petition. He admitted that a loan was obtained from the National Bank, but the whole proceeds went to Fernandes, Cassum Moosa transferring the whole value for which the promissory note purported to be given to Fernandes.

His Lordship—I think there is a case for defendant to answer. I will not indicate the ground for my thinking so; perhaps it would be better I should not.

Mr. Robinson, continuing, said he had very little to say in opening. His Lordship would have gathered clearly the nature of the defence from the pleadings and from the cross-examination. It was a fact that the late Count and defendant were well-known to each other, being personal friends for a very long period, and a certain amount of business was done by defendant through Baron (as he then was) Fernandes with Humphreys and Company in the way of ordering goods from England. Defendant had other channels for transacting his business and he used other banks than the Oriental Bank. About autumn of the year 1891 he did practically no business through Fernandes. His general position up to the time of the closing of his shop and the practical ruin of his business was described by the plaintiff when he said he had a big shop in Macao. The transaction in regard to this promissory note was that he ratified the signature made to it and became surety for Baron Fernandes at the latter's request.

Defendant said the signature on the promissory note was written by his clerk, Joseph Ismail, who frequently signed for him. Exhibit No. 5 was written by one of Fernandes's clerks, but he signed it. The letter was, however, not written as he had intended it to be. There was an account between Fernandes and the New Oriental Bank, to whom the former was indebted. He had heard that he owed the Bank between \$5,000 and \$6,000. Old Fernandes wished to borrow some money from the National Bank of China to pay off this debt, and then the clerk, of old Fernandes drew out the document produced and witness signed it. He signed it because he said he wanted this loan, and after he had signed the letter he suspected the contents and had them explained to him, and from the explanation given he learned that he was the man who wanted the money—according to the letter. He was not in need of money at the time, so he kept the letter back. It was not true as the letter stated that the New Oriental Bank had asked him to repay something which he owed. When his clerk told him he had signed the promissory note he told him he should not have done so and scolded him. A few days afterwards he saw the old Count and they had a dispute about the matter. He asked him to return to him all the papers and money he had belonging to him, but he returned him nothing, and also refused to render him an account. No account had been rendered to him up to the present time. The first time he saw the promissory note was when he was sued at the Macao Court. It was not true as stated by plaintiff that he had ever paid interest in connection with the promissory note nor had he ever re-

ceived receipts for interest paid. He was sued for this same debt by the National Bank of China in Macao, and a suit was also brought against him by Countess Fernandes, the latter suit resulting in the closing of his shop at Macao. It remained closed about 12 months.

6th March.

Defendant, who gave his evidence on Friday, was subjected to a severe cross-examination by Mr. Francis. He admitted mortgaging his shop in Macao in 1882 in favour of Count Fernandes for \$5,000, but said he never received the money. The mortgage was obtained by fraud, but he was afraid of disclosing the details lest his life might be endangered. When he gave the mortgage for \$5,000 he received no money, but he received goods, which, however, he returned. He did not know whether the goods were of the value of \$5,000 or not. These were the goods with which he opened his shop and commenced business. He returned the goods five or six months after he received them. Count Fernandes received the goods from some one else. Witness found out that the goods had been stolen, and so he returned them. He might have sold some of the goods, but these he replaced with new ones when he sent them back. He returned goods to the value of \$1,000—not because they were damaged. They were new goods. He deposited money with Count Fernandes, and accumulated about \$8,000 in this way. He thought he made the last deposit in 1891, but was not certain. When his clerk Ismail went to Hongkong with young Fernandes he told him to go to the Bank with him with a paper which had been given to him (Ismail) by old Fernandes. The paper in question was the letter referring to the loan, and Ismail had also a letter addressed direct to the Bank. He told Ismail to go to the Bank with young Fernandes, and that the latter would arrange the matter. He did not send his clerk to give his (defendant's) name as security for the money borrowed from the Bank. He never did intend to guarantee the money for the Bank. He did not think at the time that the letter contained a statement to the effect that he would guarantee the loan. He had signed the letter when Ismail took it away to go to Hongkong, but the letter was not explained to him until Ismail had returned from Hongkong.

7th March.

Mr. Robinson having summed up for defendant Mr. Francis followed.

His Lordship gave judgment for plaintiff for \$4,790.74 and interest from the 1st January, 1897, at the rate of 8 per cent., plaintiff also to have costs of suit.

9th March

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE).

SEEKING TO OBTAIN POSSESSION OF A STEAM LAUNCH.

In this action plaintiffs sought to obtain possession of a steam launch.

Mr. Pollock (instructed by Mr. Gedge, of Messrs Johnson, Stokes, and Master) said he appeared for plaintiffs, who had obtained leave of the court to proceed *ex parte*. Plaintiffs, the Yuen Huon firm, were a firm of merchants carrying on business at 4, Queen's Road West, and Mr. Kwok Chan was the managing partner of the firm. The steam launch *Yuen Huon*, against which the action was brought, was in course of construction, and was now lying on the stocks in the boat building yard which lately belonged to the Sheung Lee Wak Kee firm, at 28, Mong Kok Tsui, British Kowloon. A man called Lau Wah was the sole proprietor of this boat building yard. Up to the morning of the 4th of February last, Lau Wah was in charge of plaintiffs' launch, and was engaged in building her for plaintiffs, but on that morning plaintiffs discovered that Lau Wah had absconded from the colony. Plaintiffs accordingly commenced these proceedings for the possession of the launch. The price

agreed upon for the construction of the launch was \$3,200. It was about half built, and Captain Burnie estimated the value of the work done at \$1,300, which left \$1,900 worth of work to be done yet. Plaintiffs had paid Lau Wah \$2,000 on account of this launch, or \$700 more than the value of the work done.

Kwok Chan, managing partner in the plaintiff firm, said it was agreed that the steam launch should be afloat on the 12th of March. The price was to be \$3,200. The contract was made on the 9th of October last year. Altogether \$2,000 had been paid to the Shing Lee Wah Kee on account of the launch, and he produced receipts "chopped" by Lau Wah and also signed by him. On the 4th of Feb. this year he found out that Lau Wah had gone away from the colony, and in consequence he brought this action. He had received a report from Messrs. Burnie and Goddard valuing the work done to the launch at \$1,300. He paid \$500 on the day of the contract and the rest because Lau Wah said he wanted the money to buy materials with. Lau Wah had not done any work for the firm before. He had not seen Lau Wah since he absconded.

F. Howell, Bailiff at the Supreme Court, said that on the 4th February he served the writ of summons in this action just off the boat building yard at Mong Kok Tsui on the steam launch *Yuen Huon* by affixing it to one of the timbers. He found the police in possession.

The Chief Justice—How about the costs? I do not know how you can get them.

Mr. Pollock—I ask for costs. There is a possibility of a fund being available. In fact there is one now in the Court to the amount of \$82.90.

Judgment for plaintiffs with costs.

THE WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES.

NEGROS COMMISSIONERS RETURN TO BAKOLOK.

TROOPS LIKELY TO ACCOMPANY THEM.

CEBU OCCUPIED.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT].

MANILA, 28th February.

The transport *St. Paul* is expected to leave for the south to-morrow, carrying a battalion of the California Volunteers under Major Sime. Col. Smith, the commanding officer of the regiment, is believed to have been named for the government representative of military affairs and civil administration. The news is not yet confirmed at headquarters, but indications point to Negros as destination of the men now preparing for departure.

After being the guests of the United States Government for more than a week, the commissioners from Bakolok, the capital city of the island of Negros, are about to return. They have been closely questioned as regards the intentions of the mass of Negros people, how far advanced their Government is to-day, and what they expect to have in the future under the dominion of the Americans. The four men here are intelligent, well behaved Visayanos, keen observers, and evince great interest in everything American. From the first Negros has never been strongly in favour of Aguinaldo, though the inhabitants fought under his flag and drove out the Spaniards. On the 6th of last November the Spanish evacuation of Bakolok took place. On the 7th, the next day, the Negros local Government was formed, and three days later two Commissioners from the Malolos Government arrived and set up the same form as existed in Luzon, appointing also some Tagalog officers in addition to those already in power. On November 12th, six days after they took possession, a communication was sent to Captain Glass, of the *Charleston*, then in Iloilo harbour, asking him to come to Negros and establish an American protectorate. This is their interpretation of the message, and Captain Glass answered saying the matter must be referred to the seat of Government before he could act.

The commissioners maintain that they had absolutely no connection with the Iloilo people during the recent troubles, but their desire for a

Government under the Stars and Stripes seems to have cooled a little, for during the month of January many soldiers and arms came over from Negros and the Iloilo Generals boasted that they had several thousand more men awaiting orders.

As soon as operations were commenced against Iloilo, delegates from Negros hastened to visit General Miller and place their island at his disposal. Miller gave them a favourable answer and they returned to hoist a hastily improvised American flag over the Government building. Commissioners were chosen and given passage to Manila.

The anticipated expedition is the result of their representations here.

CEBU OCCUPIED.

A battalion of the 23rd U.S. Infantry, under Major Goodale, left for Cebu on Sunday night. It is understood that the flag was already raised there by the *Petrel* on 22nd February. Peaceable possession is anticipated.

Firing continues pretty much all around Manila and the same restrictions cause all residents and especially natives to remain at home after seven o'clock in the evening. The circus, theatres, and public amusements and drinking houses are accordingly suspended for the time being. For several days there has been practically no fighting beyond sharpshooting, which at times flares up and disturbs a brigade, but does little harm beyond wearing out the men. Nearly every day one or two Americans are shot or badly wounded, but as orders are severely against bringing on engagements as answering stray shots, things are rather more quiet than they have been since the outbreak on 4th February.

The English and Japanese marines still come ashore at night to patrol the banks and foreign business houses and guard against fire. In a former communication I believe I said they were armed. It was a mistake, as they carry no arms and merely afford extra protection against fire.

The advent of the peace commissioners is eagerly awaited and speculation is on as to the changes their coming will produce.

ST. DAVID'S BALL.

On Friday night the Warrant Officers, Staff-Sergeants, and Sergeants of the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers gave a ball, in honour of St. David's Day, at the City Hall, and right well were all the arrangements conducted. The staircase leading to the dance-rooms looked pretty indeed with numerous plants and ferns. At the top of the first flight of steps swayed a white ensign and an American flag, and between the two a star of bayonets scintillated in a blaze of electric lights, the latter being artistically arranged under various coloured globes by Mr. C. Robinson. Guests, on entering the dance-rooms were greeted by a sight not often witnessed in Hongkong, as far as decorations are concerned. Both rooms were a blaze of colour—flags artfully arranged over all the walls, set off here and there by mirrors and pots of ferns and shrubs. The band of the regiment, conducted by Sergt. Adams in the absence of Bandmaster Gregory (who, unfortunately, is confined to hospital), occupied the usual stand between the two halls. Seats and lounges were coarsely arranged in an adjoining room and in the verandahs outside the dance-rooms for guests to retire to in the intervals between the dances, and on the same floor a refreshment table was provided for the ladies. Great credit is due to the committee and decorators for the manner in which they carried out their duties and the attractive way in which they used the flags and bunting at their disposal. Many of those who are frequent and favoured guests at balls given in Hongkong were unanimous in pronouncing the embellishments on this occasion as among the best. The committee and decorators deserving the encomium were: Col. Sergt. Kirby, Sergeants Palmer, Moore, Hadly, Notman, and a petty officer and three signalmen from H.M.S. *Undaunted*. Previous to starting the first dance, Sergt. Clarke took up a position in the St. Andrew's hall bearing the regiment's colours, which were guarded by Privates Booth and Vaughan carrying fixed bayonets. Noticeable amongst the guests were Colonel Mainwaring, Major Sir Robt. Colleton, Sir Horace McMahon, Capt. Hanbury, Capt. Ben

croft, and Commander Ethelston, of H.M.S. *Powerful*. The dance programme contained twenty-one numbers and three supper engagements. A set supper was laid in the theatre by Mr. Farmer, of the "New Victoria," who provided a sumptuous repast. The tables were decorated, in addition to a big array of flowers, with cups, goblets, and many other articles of gold and silver, being presentations or trophies won by the regiment. They comprised two shields for football and cricket; one gold and four silver "Red Dragon" racing cups; two gold goblets, presented by Col. Bell, V.C., C.B.; goblets by Capt. W. J. Steward, Monmouthshire Light Infantry; by officers 21st R. North British Fusiliers; by 9th Lancers at Woolwich in 1817; cups by Captain Mitchell Molyneux, Lt. Col. Bulwer, C.B., 1865; St. David's Cup by Captain Sydney Millett, 1865; Captain Chas. Morgan; Major J. Knoxlett; silver jugs by Major J. Duff and Col. R. B. Harkett; flower bowls by Captain F. de G. H. Helbert, Major and Brevet Lt. Col. Gubbins, by Captain Ed. R. B. Moore at Crete; Major J. Knoxlett; eight silver candlesticks and two lamps by Captain R. W. Ethelston, brother of Commander Ethelston of H.M.S. *Powerful*; and a steple chase cup, won by "Thorpe," owned by Sir Horace McMahon, and ridden by Captain B. K. Hanbury at Aldershot in 1894. With a few other smaller presentations, the whole of the gold and silver displayed has a value attached of over four thousand dollars. There were two sittings for supper which were worked with tickets, a plan that proved to be a very successful introduction. A refreshment bar was provided downstairs for gentlemen, and adjoining, in the library, card tables. Drinks, except at supper, had to be purchased. Remarks concerning this were passed; but when it is known that only thirty-two persons were entirely responsible for the expenses of the whole function, the matter of payment for stimulants was a mere trifle and a pleasure. The M.C.'s were Col. Sergt. Ridings, Sergt. Kelly, and Sergt. Drummer Mackie, who carried out their respective duties with much tact. The flowers and plants were kindly lent from the Botanical Gardens. The decorations took days to fix, but were all taken down and cleared away in eight or nine hours after the last dance took place. There was only one thing to mar the occasion: an accident to Private Christopher Ganghram. He was told off to see the plants safely returned to the Botanical Gardens, and after taking one cart load there, he mounted the trolley to ride down the hill. The coolies in charge were unable to control the thing and let go of the ropes; Ganghram jumped from the cart as it sped down the hill and cleared it, but he fell close to the shafts, and as the ends came near him the cart swerved and the crossbar of the shafts, ran through his arm, causing injuries which, it is feared, will necessitate amputation.

"OUR NATIONAL WEAK POINTS."

LECTURE BY COLONEL ELSDALE, R.E.

On the 6th March a lecture was delivered in the City Hall, under the auspices of the Odd Volumes' Society, by Colonel Elsdale, R.E., the subject being "Our national weak points." His Excellency Major-General Gascoigne, C.M.G., presided, and His Excellency Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G., was also present. There was a good attendance. After a few introductory words from the Chairman,

Colonel ELSDALE remarked that last year they had a lecture from Mr. Drummond, of Shanghai, the general tone and purpose of which seemed to be the glorification of the British empire. In the course of a conversation afterwards he ventured to remark, without in the least disparaging the lecture, that what they now wanted was a lecture on their weak points. No one had come forward in the interim to deal with the question, and so he would trust to their kind indulgence that afternoon while he did his best on the subject. If they could see themselves as others saw them, if they could look at themselves with the eyes of an intelligent foreigner, he thought they might find much that would profit them. The average and intelligent foreigner on the Continent of Europe fully recognised and admired the energy and capacity of Englishmen, who, starting from a small group of islands in

the North Sea, had built up for themselves a vast world-wide empire. He admired the independence of spirit of Englishmen, the go-ahead character which had led to their opening out new fields, in treading new paths, in striking out new work all over the world, but he despised that apparently innate vulgarity which characterised a very large section of the population. He (the lecturer) was afraid that if the truth must be told they were without exception the most vulgar race in the civilised world. (Laughter.) This vulgarity did not as a general rule show itself to any appreciable extent in the upper classes. English ladies and English gentlemen were recognised as ladies and gentlemen in the most refined and fastidious circles all over the world, but in the lower middle and lower orders of the population this vulgarity ran strong and wide. It was not due to poverty, because it was frequently observable that the richer and more prosperous among these people were the most vulgar. It was not due to lack of education. Among the ignorant and barbarous savages of West Africa there was no vulgarity, although there was a great deal of poverty and dense and crass ignorance. He supposed that among civilised populations the most ignorant and backward were to be found in the remote districts of Spain. He had travelled among these people, and he could give his own impression for what it was worth. Although their manners were undoubtedly free and independent and easy there was no vulgarity among them. He thought the vulgarity of Englishmen was due to the slowness, the dullness, the poverty of their imagination. It was due to the want of sympathy with other people's feelings and want of sympathy and appreciation of other people's ideas. This poverty of spirit, this want of appreciation of the sublime and of the magnificent, had worked untold mischief in the history of the empire. It lost us the American colonies. The men of that day had no souls to realise the magnificent and princely heritage which they had in North America. He proceeded to give a few instances of the working of this defect of character in our home and colonial policy, taking first the question of Egypt. Here he said they occupied an utterly false—he would not say immoral—position before the world. Years ago they pledged themselves to remove their troops from Egypt and they had not carried out that pledge. This was because their Government and their politicians could never make up their minds between two opposite and contrasted lines of policy in Egypt. The first of these was what he might call the "hands off and concert of Europe" policy. That was a tenable line of policy and a practical policy, but they did not adopt it. The next line of policy which any reasonable statesman would have adopted was what they now called the imperialistic policy. The lecturer proceeded to give instances of vacillation and lack of foresight on the part of the British Government in connection with other portions of the African continent. He said that for a long period of years it was perfectly clear to every thinking man that the position of the Portuguese in Delagoa Bay must become a sharp thorn in the side of British progress in South Africa. The Portuguese set no store on it themselves and at one time would have accepted a very small sum in compensation. Lord Carnarvon, one of the best Colonial Ministers they ever had, undertook to buy the claims of Portugal out of Delagoa Bay for a sum which was never publicly mentioned in the House of Commons he thought, but which it was generally understood would be under a hundred thousand pounds. But the Government would not rise to the occasion, and now he supposed they would be very glad to give the Portuguese a million or a couple of millions for Delagoa Bay. Speaking about Russian progress in Central Asia, the lecturer said that personally he thought England had no ground of complaint against Russia for annexing those countries which lay at her doors. England had no claim to them and what she should have done was to view Russian progress in a friendly spirit, on to draw a line and say thus far and no farther, but she did not do this. Time after time more or less angry despatches passed between England and Russia. England was always barking and growling at the heels of Russia, but she never at any

point drew a line and said, "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther, and if you do pass that line we are prepared to go to war." The result was that Russia's progress in Central Asia had not been stopped for a single week, and England had set every Russian to think that the British empire was the sworn foe of his country. (Hear, hear.) The lecturer mentioned England's wavering policy on the north-west frontier of India. They might be told that this was due to the exigencies of party Government. That was no doubt true so far as it went, but it did not go to the root of the matter. The root of the matter was the want of imagination and perception, the slowness, the dullness, the unsympathetic character of the average Englishman. The masses required education and enlightenment; they required to be taught the magnificence of the great empire handed down from their forefathers; the present conditions by which they maintained that empire, and the methods and processes by which they might hope to hand it down unimpaired to their posterity. There was a very important and collateral aspect of this question which he wanted to bring before them, and that was the necessity which he thought they were under of cultivating in their children imagination, perception, the individual fancy, the individual taste, the individual idiosyncracies of character if they were to contend with any hope of success against the levelling stream of modern progress—(Hear, hear.)—for the present undeniable tendency of the stream of modern progress was to level them all down to one uniform mass wherein all individuality of character, all individual fancy would be destroyed. The lecturer showed how this levelling tendency affected all classes of the community, and in conclusion repeated that the masses required to be taught the magnificence of the great heritage which had been handed down to them from their forefathers, the vast expansion which the British empire had undergone in the past, its vast possibilities of further advancement, and the grand role which it ought to play in the world as a great peace-loving enlightened power working steadily for the welfare and the progress of mankind. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN remarked that those among them who, like himself, were not prepared to go quite as far as Colonel Elsdale and who were not quite disposed to agree with him in all matters would admit that the lecture had been intensely interesting. He would tell them what was running through his mind the whole of the time Colonel Elsdale was touching upon their national defects, and that was—was there anybody but an Englishman who could have got upon a platform and preached about those defects as Colonel Elsdale had done, and would any audience but an English audience have listened to the slating they had listened to not only with complacency but actually with applause. They had heard a great deal of their national defects, but he thought the characteristic he had spoken of had made and would make them a great nation—and that was that they were always as Englishmen prone to look into their national defects. Other nations were rather inclined to sit down and say that everything which was going on in that nation was for the best. The national tendency of the English was to look for their defects, and it was by this means that they came to remedy them and became the nation which they were. (Hear, hear.) He thought, therefore, that everyone of them owed a deep debt of gratitude to Colonel Elsdale for his interesting lecture, and he would ask them if they agreed with him to signify it by their applause and thus accord a hearty vote of thanks to Colonel Elsdale.

This request was heartily responded to, as was a similar request made by Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., in respect to the Major-General for presiding.

Mr. C. W. Duggan, J.P., has been appointed Secretary of the Hongkong Sanitary Board, and commenced his duties yesterday morning. Mr. Duggan has been in the Government service since 1869. He commenced as an Inspector of Police. He subsequently became second clerk at the Central Police Station, and then first clerk and paymaster. In 1893 the style of the latter office was changed to paymaster.

HONGKONG POLICE RECREATION CLUB.

THE BILLIARD AND TENNIS TOURNAMENTS.

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES BY MRS. MAY.

The finals in the tennis tournament in connection with the Police Recreation Club were played off on the tennis court attached to the Central Police Station on Thursday afternoon in the presence of Bishop and Mrs. Hoare, the Rev. F. T. Johnson (assistant chaplain of the Cathedral), the Rev. C. and Mrs. Bone, Captain-Superintendent May and Mrs. May, Mrs. Baddeley, Mrs. Tomes, Mrs. Gedge, Sister Elizabeth, Chief Inspector Mackie, and others. The billiard tournament had been already finished. Mrs. May presented the prizes, after which she was presented with a magnificent bouquet by Inspector Ford (secretary of the Recreation Club). The Captain-Superintendent, in returning thanks for his wife, complimented the members of the club on the skill they had displayed both at billiards and tennis.

Below will be found the names of the successful competitors. In the billiard tournament, the first prize was won by Inspector Moffat. It consisted of a beautiful cup, with inscription, presented by the Captain-Superintendent.

BILLIARD TOURNAMENT.

- 1st prize, won by Inspector Moffat.
- 2nd (gold studs) won by P.C. 54 Smith.
- 3rd (gold pin) won by Ex P.C. 10 Moore.
- 4th (gold pin) won by Sergt. Langley.

TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

- CLASS A DOUBLES.—Won by Inspector Dunne and Inspector Ford.
- CLASS B DOUBLES.—Won by P.C. 47 Quinn and P.C. 82 Angus.
- CLASS C DOUBLES.—Won by P.C. 53 Kent and P.C. 20 Gerrard.
- CLASS A SINGLES.—Won by Ex P.C. 60 Grant.
- CLASS B SINGLES.—Won by P.C. 47 Quinn.
- CLASS C SINGLES.—Won by P.C. 35 Smith.
- LADIES' NOMINATION.—Won by Insp Hanrahan (nominated by Mrs. Robertson). Won by J.C. Quinn (nominated by Mrs. Baker.)

IN PHILIPPINE WATERS.

[CONTRIBUTED.]

Interesting as the Philippine Islands are, particularly at the present moment, the waters surrounding them are none the less so, being the veritable home of the sea-serpent. Although it has been generally understood that the swamps and forests of the Philippines abound in various reptiles and other curious creatures, it is not so widely known that the surrounding waters of these ill-fated islands teem with veritable sea-serpents, which, notwithstanding that their entire existence is passed in the waters, possess deadly fangs, and are a source of great danger to the fisherman on account of their ferocious attacks.

The habitat of these reptiles is the tropical seas of the old world, and they have, on authentic authority, been known to attain a length of ten feet. They comprise a group which science has named the *Hydrophiidae*, and differ only from the territorial snakes in the possession of a flat, paddle-like tail. According to Dr. Rudolph Weber, professor of drawing in Princeton University, who, while on a vessel bound for Sumatra, in charge of a scientific expedition, noticed large numbers of these creatures. Several distinct species can be recognised among them. When about 50 miles off the coast myriads of these sea-snakes could be seen swimming about as far as the eye could reach. They kept upon the surface, and offered several opportunities for close observation. During calm weather these reptiles may be seen sunning themselves upon the surface of the sea motionless except for a slight undulation caused by the movement of the water. When alarmed the agile reptiles dive like arrows, leaving a train of bubbles behind them. In colouration some species are extremely brilliant, being bright yellow, banded with black, while others are tinted with delicate shades of green.

Fishes form the food of these sea-snakes, even those armed with long sharp spines, such as the spogons and siluroids, falling victims to

their appetites. Although the spines of these victims are frequently three and five inches long they do not embarrass the voracious reptile in the least. The victim is first killed by the snake's poison, after which he is swallowed head first. The spines, naturally pointing toward the tail of the victim, and being relaxed in death, are compressed against the body of the fish, as deglutition proceeds. Sometimes while in search of their prey sea-snakes venture a short distance up the mouth of large rivers. An instance is recorded by Dr. Weber when he was fishing in one of the rivers of the east coast of Sumatra. He was using a drag-net, and had cornered a number of medium-sized fish. As the net was being brought in two large sea-snakes suddenly made their appearance inside. They showed no signs of uneasiness at capture, but were hurriedly gobbling down the cornered fishes. Nor did they cease operations until the last fish had disappeared, when the formidable creatures made their escape.

Like the whale, being air-breathers the sea-snakes lead a similar existence. Much interest has been expressed by scientists as to how long they can remain under water. To quote Professor R. P. Whitfield, of the American Museum of Natural History, he saw while dragging for corals, a large sea-snake lying motionless among some coral growths, some eight feet below the surface. It showed no signs of fear, and remained in the same position for half-an-hour. The venom of these reptiles is more deadly than that of the cobra. The fangs are very short, and consequently do not penetrate so deeply as the fangs of most serpents, but only a scratch from them is necessary to produce serious results. Accidents, however, are very rare, owing to their great shyness. When cornered they snap and bite viciously, retaining their hold upon a victim. As the eyes are adapted only for use in the water, they strike blindly when brought into the air, although living for days when removed from their water element.

Many specimens hauled up in fishermen's nets have been sent to zoological gardens.

The London gardens went so far as to build a special tank for their accommodation. But these captured specimens either die en route or a short time after being placed in captivity. Selecting a dark corner of their tank, they refuse all food and ultimately starve to death. These reptiles are particularly numerous around the volcanic islands of the Malayan archipelago. Eruptions frequently occur among these islands, which are hardly more than the body of a volcano. During the time of the eruption the few people residing near by take to the water in their boats to escape the rain of ashes and mud. But it is generally a case of jumping from the frying-pan into the fire. The sea becomes uncomfortably warm at such times from its close proximity to the burning mountain, and the sea-snakes swim wildly about for escape. They endeavour to climb over the gunwales of the refugees' boats, while they twine their bodies in great masses about the forward chains.

When about to lay their eggs these serpents approach the shore. They lay their eggs above high-water mark and leave them to hatch by the heat of the sun. Many creatures prey upon the young reptiles. Their enemies are sharks and others large fishes, while the adults, in spite of their death-dealing fangs, are victims to sea-eagles and large gulls. After the great typhoons, which are common to the Philippines and their vicinity, many of these creatures may be found along the beach, when they have been cast up during the storm and killed by the violent pounding of the waves.

The gigantic sea-serpents so often reported as having been observed have no relation to these creatures. Recently a dead anaconda, thrown overboard from a Trinidad steamer, was described as a "sea monster" and as undergoing the most remarkable gyrations.

J. W. H. B.

A Bangkok paper says that "Mr. J. J. Lillie, who was a passenger by the *M. M. Caledonien*, now travels in the interests of a large French insurance company, a post conferred on him, through certain interests, in recognition of services rendered in Siam."

THE DESERT OF GOBI: IS IT A DESERT?

[CONTRIBUTED.]

"Give a dog a bad name and it will stick to him" is a proverb which applies to other things than dogs. It is very applicable to that large portion of the world's surface across which is written, in nearly all maps of Asia, "Desert of Gobi." If we were to make a map of North America and write across the centre half of it "Desert Lands" the description would be equally accurate. The map-makers are responsible for this folly and it is about time it was remedied. Popular beliefs die hard and the belief that "The Desert of Gobi," to use the name applied to it, is a desert is one of those which continue long after all ground for such belief has ceased to exist.

How did this idea, that the centre of Asia is a desert, arise? Probably from the habit of supposing that all unknown lands must be deserts, or from the idea that a country in which salt lakes exist must be sterile. The fallacy of the latter line of reasoning is shown by the fact that the Valley of Salt-Lake City, in America, is very fertile, as is also the Valley of the Jordan, which terminates in the Dead Sea.

When one reflects on the causes which barred European travellers from penetrating into the heart of Asia it is easy to see how profound ignorance as to the physical features of that region could easily arise. And does not profound ignorance as to China itself still exist in Europe, notwithstanding that a large trade has been carried on between the two countries for many years? Central Asia is bounded on the north by Siberia, until recently practically uninhabited and possessed of an arctic climate; on the south by the stupendous Himalaya mountain range, all but impassable; on the east by the bogie empire China, who barred out the foreigner; and on the west by the territories of the fanatical Mahomedan races, who refused passage to other religionists. What wonder that supreme ignorance has prevailed as to this region until the present time.

The races which inhabit Central Asia are of a warlike nature and would never have been brought under control by the Chinese, who now nominally rule them, were it not for their constant dissensions and internal strife. Their predatory nature further contributed to the general ignorance as to the regions they inhabit, for solitary travellers would hardly risk the passage across an unknown country inhabited by fanatical and thievish races.

To give a few reasons for supposing that Central Asia is far from being the desert land it is represented to be, and that it will yet, like the centre of North America, be the home of a numerous and civilized people, it may be well to remind the public that Mr. Arnot Reid, editor of an important Straits Settlements newspaper, in a journey made by him last year across the north-eastern section of the Desert of Gobi described it as magnificent grass-lands and writes enthusiastically of the enjoyment derived by all his party in riding over these grassy plains for a fortnight, in a direct line from Kalgan to Kiakhta, the country near the two terminal points being mountainous. Again, we know that the renowned Chinese Viceroy Tso Tsung T'ang led a large army across the Desert of Gobi to reconquer Kasgaria, the tribes there having risen in rebellion against their Chinese rulers. The method he resorted to to obviate having to drag his supplies all the way over that great distance was to proceed in stages, stopping each year to set his army to work to cultivate the soil, sow and harvest crops for its sustenance, and then proceed on its march of conquest. The expedition took several years to effect its object. Here we have another proof that the country is not a desert, for can crops be raised in the desert? Finally, although different sections of this so-called desert have been crossed in recent years by European travellers we do not find any mention made of their having to carry a supply of water with them, as would be the case were it the great sandy desert it is represented to be. They all record the lawlessness of the inhabitants, shewing what a weak hold over the country the Chinese Government exercises, but none report that they lacked water.

It is a great pity that the above named travellers have said so little about the physical features of the country in the reports of their journeys, but perhaps the monotonous level nature of the land left them little to say. Salt lakes undoubtedly exist in this area, but they only testify to its age, geologically speaking, not to its sterility.

It is to be hoped future travellers over this area, destined to be a commercial highway when spanned by railways, will give us more information as to the nature of the soil as well as its inhabitants.

GERMANY AND THE PERSIAN GULF.

[CONTRIBUTED.]

Now that German interests are growing up so rapidly in Asia Minor and in the Far East German political leaders cannot but view with apprehension the attempt by France and Russia to join hands through Persia and thus cut off all possible communication by land between Germany's field of influence in Syria and that in China. They will also naturally object to have the possible Euphrates Valley Railway controlled by either of Germany's hereditary enemies. Such being the case, Germany will probably do what she can to guarantee the integrity of Persia and the neutrality of the Persian Gulf. It is not impossible that Prince Henry on his return to Europe may find reason to visit the Shah of Persia and inform him of the desire of his august brother that the ancient kingdom of Persia should be assured against absorption by Russia.

INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS AND SHIPBUILDERS OF HONGKONG.

PROPOSED CHANGE OF ROOMS.

On Saturday evening an extraordinary general meeting of members of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong was held for the purpose of considering a proposal to remove to other and more convenient premises. There was a good attendance. Mr. D. Gillies (President of the Institution) occupied the chair, and he was supported by Mr. J. W. Kinghorn (chairman of the committee) and Mr. W. S. Bailey (hon. secretary).

The CHAIRMAN explained the object for which the meeting had been called and dealt with the inconvenience of the present premises. He added that the committee had inspected a great many buildings in Hongkong, and had come to the conclusion that none of the buildings they had seen would suit their purpose better than the premises now occupied by Messrs. Siemssen and Co. They proposed to take a lease of the first floor. The site of the new premises had everything to recommend it. In conclusion he proposed:—"That the managing committee of this Institute be and is hereby empowered to lease the premises now occupied by Messrs. Siemssen and Co. from Mr. Chater at the monthly rental of \$350 and to make the best arrangements possible for sub-letting the present rooms to one or more suitable tenants."

Mr. RAMSEY seconded, and after a somewhat lengthy discussion the resolution was carried unanimously.

CHURCH NOTES.

The following items are taken from the monthly "Notes" issued by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, chaplain of St. John's Cathedral:—

The Rev. F. T. Johnson arrived from England on February 28th. He comes to take up the work of Assistant Chaplain. We welcome him amongst us, and trust that his life and work here may be a blessing to himself and to those to whom he ministers.

We are glad to hear that steps are being taken for the appointment of an additional Chaplain whose duty it will be to minister to the Church people in Canton and other Treaty Ports in Southern China, where, for a long time, no provision of the kind has been made.

The Bishop of Victoria goes to Foochow soon after Easter.

Bishop Burdon, some time Bishop of Victoria, has been staying in Hongkong, working at a Revision of the New Testament in Chinese.

He goes shortly to Pakhoi, where he will minister to the Christian congregation, and continue his literary work.

We regret to say that during the month of February there were two occasions when the Cathedral was forcibly entered at night, and some silver and brass vessels stolen. A whole set of Communion Plate in silver, used at Parade Service, and a Font Ewer in brass belonging to the Cathedral were taken away. We must look to it that we do not lose more valuable things: a better watch must be kept, and the shutters need renewal and repair.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Board of Directors for presentation at the ordinary meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Company's Hotel, on Tuesday, the 14th March, at noon:—

To the shareholders of the Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited.

Gentlemen,—In accordance with section 53 of the Company's Articles of Association, the Directors beg to submit to the shareholders their half-yearly report for the six months ended the 31st December, 1898.

ACCOUNTS.

The profit on working account for the half-year amounted to \$62,809.94, as compared with \$30,448.65 for the corresponding six months of 1897, showing an increase of \$32,361.29, or of \$38,699.18 over the net profits on the working account for the same period of 1896.

The profit and loss account, including a credit balance of \$24,805.94 brought forward from 30th June, 1898, shows a credit balance of \$56,900.76, as compared with \$33,078.17 for the same period 1897.

Your Directors propose to deal with the balance of \$56,900.76 as follows:—

To set aside against repairs and renewals	\$ 6,000.00
To write off furniture and fixtures	8,440.88
To pay a final dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year, absorbing	26,637.00
To place to reserve fund	15,000.00
To carry forward to new account	822.88
	\$56,900.76

The dividend, with the 4 per cent. paid for the previous half-year, gives a return of 10 per cent. on paid up capital for the year.

The stock of furniture has been still further augmented during the past half-year, and the amount written off, though somewhat less than in previous half-years, has been fixed upon for the purpose of placing the amount in round figures at \$95,000.

BUSINESS.

The business of the Hotel during the past six months has shown a gratifying increase in every department.

STAFF.

Mr. H. Haynes was appointed manager in place of Mr. Death on the 12th November, 1898.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. R. C. Wilcox and W. Parfitt retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and W. H. Gaskell, whose re-election is recommended.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 3rd March, 1899.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1898.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital—			
8,379 shares at \$50 each (fully paid up) ..	418,950.00		
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, fixed loan account	500,000.00		
Accounts payable	24,050.36		
Unclaimed dividends	1,497.50		
Balance at credit of repairs and renewals account	1,849.82		
Profit and loss account	56,900.76		
	\$1,028,248.23		

ASSETS.

Value of land and building as per last report:—		\$	c.
Marine lot No. 5, and remaining portion of marine lot ..			
No. 3	412,523.04		

Remaining portion of marine lot No. 7	408,157.26		
Praya Reclamation, as per last report ..	20,783.04		
Praya Reclamation, since added, being 5th instalment of 7½ per cent. paid to Government ..	1,647.98		
	22,481.02		
Value of furniture and fixtures as per last report	99,163.59		
Less written off, as recommended in last report	10,000.00		
	89,163.59		
Since added	14,287.29		
	10,344.88		
Stock of wines, &c., provisions, household sundries, coal, and stationery	27,282.62		
Steam launch	2,000.00		
Shares in public companies	7,033.81		
Licences attaching to 1899	623.00		
Suspense account	150.00		
Accounts receivable	1,317.94		
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation No. 2 account	23,474.85		
Cash in hand	1,527.39		
	286.01		
	\$1,028,248.23		

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1898.

Dr.		\$	c.
To bad debts and refunds attaching to 1897-1898 ..	245.65		
To rates	2,840.50		
To interest on mortgage	15,082.19		
To directors' and auditors' fees	1,650.00		
To fire insurance	1,098.95		
To Crown rent	365.89		
To bonus to directors	6,000.00		
To cost of special repairs and painting of building	14,898.94		
To balance, which the directors propose to deal with as follows:—			
To set aside against repairs and renewals	6,000.00		
To write off furniture and fixtures	8,440.88		
To dividend of 6 per cent.	26,637.00		
To reserve fund	15,000.00		
To carry forward to new account ..	822.88		
	56,900.76		
	\$98,582.88		

Cr.		\$	c.
By balance from 30th June, 1898 ..	\$58,568.94		
Less dividend of 4 per cent.	\$17,758.00		
Less written off furniture and fixtures	10,000.00		
Less amount set aside for repairs and renewals	6,000.00		
	33,758.00		
	24,805.94		
By rents of shops and offices, new building	2,880.00		
By rents of shops and offices, old building	7,792.00		
	10,672.00		
By dividends on shares	295.00		
By profit on hotel working account for six months ending 31st December, 1898	62,809.94		
	\$98,582.88		

REPAIRS AND RENEWALS ACCOUNT.

Dr.		\$	c.
To payments on account of repairs and renewals during the half year ending 31st December, 1898	4,191.60		
To balance	1,849.62		
	\$6,041.22		
Cr.		\$	c.
By amount set aside from profit and loss account ..	6,000.00		
By refunds	41.22		
	\$6,041.22		

The N. C. Daily News of the 3rd March says:—The barque *Nisa*, which got ashore on the Middle Ground on the 14th ult., as mentioned in a previous issue, is to be sold on Monday next by public auction. She left Puget Sound with 600,000 sup. feet of lumber, and is consigned to Messrs. Schultz & Co. Some 20,000 ft. have been jettisoned, and from 150 to 160,000 ft. discharged. Her mainmast is gone by the board, and she now lies, hogged, across the tide in an exposed position, making about 4 inches of water per hour. Every effort has been made to get her off, and now there is no chance of doing so without discharging the remainder of her cargo.

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the sixteenth ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the General Managers on Thursday, 16th March, at 11 a.m.

Annexed we beg to submit to shareholders the usual annual statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1898.

The net profit, including the balance from last year, amounts to \$55,407.27, which it is proposed to deal with as follows, viz:—

To place to Reserve Fund	\$ 5,000.00
To pay a scrip dividend of 20 per cent.	50,000.00
To carry forward to next year's account	407.27

The steamer *Zafiro* having become quite unsuited to the Manila trade owing to her small size was sold to the U. S. Government on the outbreak of hostilities and will be replaced by the steamer *Diamante* which has been built for the Company at Aberdeen and is expected to arrive here next month. The purchase of this steamer has been met by the sale of the steamer *Zafiro* and of the Company's investments in local stocks but it has left no funds available for a cash dividend and it is therefore proposed by the payment of a dividend in shares of the Company to increase the Capital to \$300,000. As the Company will then own two boats worth at a moderate valuation \$50,000, the proposed increase of Capital is fully justified.

The result of the year's working is less than that for 1897 but this is of course explained by the fact that we have sometimes had only one boat running and at other times have had to employ chartered steamers not well adapted to our special requirements.

Consulting Committee.—In accordance with the articles of association, Messrs. Gillies, Siebs, Lewis, and Chewan all retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. J. H. Cox and T. Arnold, who are eligible for re-election.

SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.
General Managers.

Hongkong, 28th February, 1899.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1898.

Consulting Committee	\$ 0.
Auditors' fees	2,000.00
Charges account	300.00
Amount written off for depreciation 1898	979.18
Balance	10,000.00
	55,407.27
	\$68,686.45
Balance brought forward from 1897	\$ 0.
Profit on working of steamers <i>Esmeralda</i> and <i>Tailor</i>	2,432.90
Less loss on working of steamers <i>Zafiro</i> and <i>Verona</i>	68,492.69
	6,631.83
Profit on stores	61,860.86
Interest	55.32
Exchange	1,724.70
Dividend on fractional certificates	926.82
Amount transferred from bad and doubtful debts	15.00
	1,671.35
	\$86,686.45

BALANCE SHEET.

Capital, 5,000 shares at \$50 paid up	\$ 0.
Reserve fund	250,000.00
Underwriting account	60,000.00
Sundry creditors	8,230.44
Due to General Managers	22,652.37
Balance of profit and loss account	5,269.11
	55,407.27
	\$401,568.39

ASSETS.

Value of Company's steamers <i>Esmeralda</i> and <i>Zafiro</i> , as per last statement	\$ 0.
Installments paid on new steamer <i>Diamante</i>	\$170,000.00
	218,125.92
Less proceeds of sale of str. <i>Zafiro</i>	238,125.92
	181,438.26
Less depreciation written off str. <i>Esmeralda</i>	206,637.66
	10,000.00
Value of boats and moorings at Hongkong	100,537.85
	100.00

Value of coals on hand	622.25
Value of stores on hand	1,050.61
Premium value of unexpired policies	4,144.79
Outstanding freight 1898	24,621.75
Sundry debtors	69,881.77
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	28,074.44
Cash on hand	1,460.12
Investment in shares:—	
100 shares Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Limited	
200 shares Yangtze Insurance Association Co., Limited	
250 shares Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., Limited	75,025.00
	\$401,568.39

GEO. FENWICK & CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation at the annual meeting to be held on the 11th March, at noon:—

The Directors beg to submit to the shareholders a statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1898.

The net profit for the year amounts to \$22,369.78, to which has to be added \$17,356.85, brought forward from last year's account. After payment of Directors and Auditor, it is proposed to pay a dividend of 12 per cent, or \$18,000, to shareholders, to transfer \$3,000 to Reserve Fund, and to carry forward \$17,576.63 to next year's account.

During the year the Company have been kept fairly well employed. The property and plant are in good condition. Several modern machine tools have been added; these have been in use for some time, and are giving entire satisfaction.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. A. Rodger according to the Articles of Association retires at this time, but offers himself for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. T. Arnold, who offers himself for re-election.

A. RODGER,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 8th March, 1899.

31st DECEMBER, 1898.

Value of land and building thereon as per last statement	\$86,000.00
Less amount written off for depreciation	4,000.00
	82,000.00
Value of plant and office furniture as per last statement	24,655.00
Added during the year	6,937.74
	31,592.74
Less amount transferred to stock	\$ 144.00
Less amount written off for depreciation	3,048.74
	3,192.74
Value of stock in trade	38,400.00
Work in progress	74,190.74
Current account with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	8,630.23
Cash in hand	22,884.66
Sundry debtors	419.59
	11,788.35
	\$223,313.57

LIABILITIES.

Amount of capital 6,000 shares at \$25 each fully paid up	\$ 0.
Reserve fund	150,000.00
Amount received in advance on account of contracts in hand	27,000.00
Sundry creditors	8,000.00
Balance of profit and loss account	3,686.94
	39,726.63
	\$223,313.57

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, 31st DECEMBER, 1898.

To cost of labour, material, and working expenses	\$ 0.
To salaries	81,421.51
To Crown rent and taxes	16,412.00
To fire insurance	1,132.90
To amount written off plant account	214.50
To amount written off property account	3,048.74
To amount of bad debts written off	4,000.00
To balance to be appropriated, viz:—	91.55
Auditor's fee	\$ 150.00
Directors' fees	1,000.00
Dividend of 12 per cent. on \$150,000	18,000.00
Carried to reserve fund	3,000.00
Balance to be carried forward to new account	17,576.63
	39,726.63

By amount brought forward from last year's account	\$ 0.
By gross earnings	17,356.85
By transfer fees	122,055.04
By interest account	31.00
By dividend unclaimed	470.82
By bonus from insurance company	13.35
	2.87
	\$140,047.35

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the second ordinary general meeting, to be held at the office of the company, No. 9, Praya Central, Hongkong, on Wednesday, 15th March, at 11 a.m.:

The Directors beg to submit the annexed statement of accounts from the date of the incorporation of the Company to the 31st December, 1898, which they regret show a balance at debit of Working Account of \$19,840.98. This balance has been carried forward to the debit of the new Account.

During the past year a considerable amount of prospecting has been carried on at Punjom at points hitherto untouched, and there were, at the date of the latest report from the Mines, 12 prospects in operation, not including those at Jalis Mine.

Mr. L. L. Bailey was appointed Manager at Punjom in July, 1898, and took over charge on the 13th September last, and the Board are hoping that under his administration a more flourishing state of affairs may exist at the end of the current year.

The Machinery and Plant at the Mines are in good working order.

Directors.—Mr. W. R. Loxley has resigned his seat on the Board, owing to his impending departure for Europe.

In accordance with paragraph 104 of the Articles of Association, Messrs. D. Gillies and J. H. Lewis retire from the Board, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The Accounts have been audited by Messrs. F. Henderson and W. H. Gaskell and the Board recommend these gentlemen for re-election.

D. GILLIES,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 7th March, 1899.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1898.

Ordinary shares—	
Authorized capital, 60,000 ordinary shares at \$3.00 each	\$480,000.00
Less 350 shares deemed \$5 paid up unallotted	1,750.00
Less uncalled \$3 each on 60,000 shares	180,000.00
	181,750.00
	298,250.00
Preference shares—	
Authorized capital, 80,000 preference shares at \$1 each	80,000
	328,250.00
Accounts payable—	
Syme & Co., Singapore agents	\$1,132.66
James Morrison & Co., Ltd., London agents	44.41
Willfey Ore Concentrator Synd., Ltd., London	949.79
John Little & Co., Limited, Singapore	862.52
Deposit and personal accounts with employees at Punjom	4,733.66
Asiatic pay roll, Dec., 1898	1,886.85
Dividends unclaimed	1,528.19
Directors' fees	2,784.36
Auditors' Fees	150.00
Marine insurance on gold and specie	670.36
Legal expenses	375.53
Royalty to Cassel Gold Extracting Co., Ltd., Glasgow	553.76
Sundry accounts	114.00
Draft against machinery ordered from London	957.24
	16,693.43
	\$344,943.43

PROPERTY AND ASSETS.

Cost of estate.....	\$157,954.59
Machinery, plant and general equipment	57,614.12
Cyanide plant	12,320.27
Main shaft	10,000.00
Main and klidah dams	8,000.00
Buildings	10,322.56
Roads and bridges	5,284.76
Life stock and Bullock carts	617.05
Furniture at mines	1,235.04
Stores in stock at mines	22,153.43
Stores in transit	2,909.97
Development of concession	4,239.03
Cash in Hongkong and Shanghai	
Bank Hongkong	\$1,355.22
Cash in Hongkong and Shanghai	
Bank, Singapore	1,463.10
Fixed deposit with Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Hongkong	2,818.32
Dividend account, 1896	12,500.00
Accumulated preference dividend account 1897	589.97
Suspense account	1,584.49
Head Office furniture	5,068.09
Cash on hand at Mines	405.3
Postage stamps on hand	1,292.66
Cash in chartered Bank of I. A. & C., Kuala Lumpur	55.00
Timber and firewood on hand	447.38
Merchandise loaned	1,149.22
Cash in hands of Pekan agent	109.02
Advances made to employees at Punjom	513.67
Mines adjustment account	799.91
Advance to Telegraph Master at Kuala Lipis	545.43
Accounts Receivable:	
Interest due on dividend account	93.69
Balance due on September and October gold winnings	
Advance obtained on December gold winnings	10,086.92
Value of gold concentrates on hand	52.79
Balance at debit of working account	19,840.98
	\$344,948.43

WORKING ACCOUNT, 15TH NOVEMBER, 1897, TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1898.

Dr.

To cost of mining.....	\$59,687.07
To cost of milling and water power.....	23,716.75
To cost of cyanide working and laboratory	15,933.84
To sundry charges:-	
Insurance	\$ 774.00
Upkeep of police	1,168.66
Charges on gold shipments.....	8,603
Payments to Toh Kaya Lipis	390.00
Travelling expenses.....	618.36
	3,557.05
To legal expenses	23.03
To head office expenses	5,868.64
To telegrams	237.25
To manager's salary and office expenses at Punjom	11,555.44
To agency fees and general expenses at Punjom	9,574.30
To Royalty to Sultan of Pahang	8,187.37
To Royalty to Cassel Gold Extracting Co., Limited, Glasgow	1,000.81
To reconstruction expenses and charges	1,831.16
To directors' fees	2,734.36
To auditors' fees	150.00
To transport and saw mill expenses	2,499.51
To exchange account	79.29
To hotel and hospital expenses	1,419.28
To cost of prospecting	1,318.96
To value of invoice of Chemicals jettisoned on voyage out.....	215.64
	\$150,128.25

Cr.

By proceeds of gold winnings.....	\$128,170.79
By interest	745.78
By transfer fees	110.11
By fine	181.81
By license fees	108.75
By sundry revenue	103.70
By profit on sale of stores	\$677.43
By profit on sale of medical stores	19.08
	876.51
By balance.....	19,840.98
	\$150,128.38

THE LAOU-KUNG-MOW COTTON SPINNING AND WEAVING CO., LD.

The following is the report presented to the shareholders at the fifth ordinary meeting of the Company held at the Offices of the General Managers on Wednesday, Shanghai, on the 1st March:-

The Directors submit their report, together with the accounts of the Company, for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1898.

The working of the Company during the first six months of the year was satisfactory, and in view of the accumulated balance of Tls. 54,057.98 at credit of profit and loss account on the 30th of June, the Directors felt justified in declaring an interim dividend of four per cent., thus absorbing Tls. 24,000. Unfortunately, owing to the heavy fall in the yarn market in the last half of the year, the second six months' working resulted in a loss. In order to avoid an accumulation of stock, night work was discontinued in the middle of August, and has not since been resumed. With the opening of the new cotton season prices for the raw material were much reduced, and this, coupled with the improvement which has taken place in the yarn market, brought about more satisfactory conditions.

After deducting the interim dividend above referred to, the year closed with a balance at credit of profit and loss account of Tls. 10,600.18; this the directors recommend be written off to Depreciation Account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. J. M. Young and Mr. Chung Liang-yu retire in rotation as required by the Articles of Association, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Mr. G. R. Wingrove again offers himself for re-election as the Company's Auditor

A. KOFF J. M. YOUNG } Directors.

ILBERT & Co.

General Managers.

Shanghai, 23rd January, 1899.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, 31st DECEMBER, 1898.

	Dr.	Tls.	Tls.
To interest.....		12,041.99	
To agency expenses.....		4,500.00	
To directors' and auditor's fees		2,250.00	
			18,791.99
To interim dividend of 4 per cent.		24,000.00	
To balance		10,600.18	
			Tls. 53,392.17

	Cr.	Tls.	Tls.
By balance 1897		21,108.37	
Less appropriations		950.00	
			20,158.37
By premium on shares		99.46	
By transfer fees		87.99	
			187.44
By balance of spinning account 1898		33,046.36	
			Tls. 53,392.17

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1898.

	LIABILITIES	Tls.
Capital: 8,000 shares, of which are issued 7,158		715,800.00
Overdraft at bankers		263,020.65
Unpaid dividends		560.00
Cash due General Managers		1,783.08
Sundry creditors		18,992.80
Balance of profit and loss account		10,600.18
		Tls. 1,010,666.71

	ASSETS.	Tls.
Buildings		185,542.87
Reservoir and land improvements		31,715.64
Machinery		511,443.29
Property—Chinese houses and land		52,405.76
Furniture		2,919.30
Value of stock—		
Yarn		108,837.23
Cotton and waste		94,695.37
Coals		2,160.00
Mill stores		16,669.83
		221,302.45
Unexpired fire insurance		2,848.42
Unexpired rent		1,337.50
		4,185.92
Yarn duty passes in hand		1,150.93
		Tls. 1,010,666.71

The Chairman, Mr. C. J. Dudgeon, in the course of his speech in moving the adoption of

the report gave the following review of the conditions of the cotton market during the year:—As is stated in the report, the working of the mill during the first six months gave such satisfactory results that the Directors felt themselves fully justified in declaring, out of the accumulated credit of Tls. 54,000 in Profit and Loss Account on the 30th June, an interim dividend of 4 per cent. In view of the adverse circumstances which had to be contended against during the later part of the year, this payment of a dividend is perhaps to be regretted; at the time, however, there was no indication of coming troubles. The price of local cotton had certainly risen to an absurdly high level, but this we could view with comparative indifference in view of the supplies laid in at a lower cost, and the continued strength of the yarn market. It was a month or so later that indications of serious trouble showed themselves; the markets both in Hongkong and Shanghai began to be flooded with Indian spinnings, and Japan also unloading on China. The flooding of the market with supplies occurred at the very worst time of the year—yarns being slow to move during the hot weather. By the middle of September there was an accumulated stock of imported yarns in Hongkong and Shanghai of fully 100,000 bales, and a stock of local spinnings of between 15,000 and 20,000 bales; moreover, the situation in Shanghai was rendered all the worse by a movement of the Hongkong stocks to this market. The situation brought about its inevitable result, and a drop of from 10 to 15 per cent. in yarn prices followed, some counts being absolutely unsaleable. The losses which were incurred upon these Indian and Japanese shipments are likely to prevent a similar exploitation of the Chinese market for some time to come. To further aggravate matters were the conditions of the local cotton market, to which, both as they were then, and as they are now, I wish to ask your particular attention. From the beginning of the year there set in, as I have said, a steady rise in the price of local cotton, which, though in its earlier stages it was counterbalanced by a corresponding advance in yarn prices, became absolutely absurd when, towards the end of June, the market quotation stood at Tls. 117 per picul. I may remark in passing that the company had no contracts at any such ridiculous prices. I may perhaps be better able to illustrate the difficulties of the local market by representing its fluctuations in per centage. Taking as the basis the price of cotton in January, 1898, which then was abnormally high, the course of the market was in round figures as follows: from January to June the market rose some 12 to 15 per cent; from June to September it fell (from June prices) between 25 and 30 per cent; from September to the present date, the pendulum has again swung the other way, and here has been a rise from the lowest point of nearly 25 per cent, which in effect brings us back to the prices of January, 1898. The fluctuation between highest and lowest quotations during the 14 months has been (on lowest cost basis) very nearly 40 per cent. Now, gentlemen, it is clearly absurd that fluctuations such as this, which are entirely unwarranted by any movement in cotton prices in other parts of the world, should occur in Shanghai. The plain inference is that the still undeveloped condition, as I may call it, of the Shanghai cotton market is being exploited by the cunning of native speculation. I venture to think, however, that this native manipulation of the local market rests upon such a slender foundation of ignorance and shortsightedness, that it can without much difficulty be checked. Cotton is a commodity which has what may be called a world's value, and it is absurd that such world's value of China cotton should be upset, to the extent which it has been, and is, by the cunning of the native speculators. There is reason to think that the present speculative rise will result in badly burnt fingers to its originators, but; however this may be it seems to me that one means of preventing further repetition of this manipulation of market lies in combination among the foreign buyers; that, in fact, something in the nature of a Cotton Exchange be established, having for its object the regulation of local cotton prices in relation to world's value, and preventing the cotton sellers from playing off one buyer against another, which they

certainly are doing at the present time. (Hear, hear.) This has long been an object with the Directors of this company; there have been, and still are, many difficulties in arranging matters, but the question is one which is now generally recognised as of high importance, and I trust that out of the schemes which are now under consideration a workable basis of foreign combination may be arrived at. After this somewhat lengthy and pessimistic dissertation upon the unsatisfactory conditions of our local cotton market, I am pleased to be able to go on to say that the Company has made its arrangements for supplies of cotton fully sufficient for many months to come, and we are in the position of being able to look on at the local rigging of the market with considerable complaisance. At the same time, however, I do not for a moment bar the fact that the mills here were established with the object of utilising the local raw material; it is fortunate, no doubt, that we have the advantage of being able to buy in other markets, and so make ourselves in great measure independent of local conditions—a fact which I think is not sufficiently taken into account by the manipulators of the cotton market here. Nevertheless, the intention of our mills was, and is, to spin Chinese cotton, and the sooner that there is combination to bring the local cotton dealers to their senses, the better.

The report and accounts were adopted and the usual formal business transacted.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF CHINA.

Der Ostasiatische Lloyd publishes the following Report and Balance Sheet of the Imperial Bank of China for the first half of 1898:—

The Directors now submit to the Shareholders the Second Balance Sheet for the period from the 1st day of the 1st Month up to the end of the 6th month of the 24th Year of the Emperor Kuang Hsu, i.e., 16th August 1898. After paying all expenses, deducting interest paid and due, and making necessary provisions, the net profit including Tls. 50,701.05 brought forward from last account amounts to Shanghai Tls. 181,071.53.

The Dividend for half year at the rate of 8% per annum amount to 100,000.00
Balance carried forward to half year 81,071.53

Sh. Tls. 181,071.53

BALANCE SHEET.		
ASSETS.		Tls.
Cash	58,316.52	
Bills receivable	156,297.36	
Advances	4,486,288.94	
Bank premises	28,821.5	
Furniture and stationery at head office and branches	14,280.59	
	Tls. 4,743,804.92	
LIABILITIES.		Tls.
Capital paid up	2,500,000.00	
Fixed deposits from board of revenue	1,000,000.00	
Deposits from others	974,867.89	
Bills payable	76,686.26	
Balance between head office and branches	38,179.25	
Profit and loss account	181,071.53	
	Tls. 4,743,804.92	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		Tls.
Dividend at 8 per cent.	100,000.00	
Balance carried forward to next half year	81,071.53	
	Tls. 181,071.53	

		Tls.
Balance of undivided profits	50,701.05	
Amount of net profits for the half year up to the end of 6th month	130,370.48	
	Tls. 181,071.53	

On Monday morning Kowloon was the scene of some interesting manoeuvres in connection with the Naval Brigade. A body of marines guarded the coal depot, another body of marines being stationed on the hills. The Bluejackets attacked from over the hills, and so far as we can gather they are supposed to have been successful.

FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB V. ROYAL ENGINEERS.

There was a good number of spectators at the Happy Valley on Saturday to witness the first match in the third round of the Shield competition, played between the Hongkong Football Club and the Royal Engineers. Owing to the late appearance of the referee, the game was not started until fifteen minutes after the advertised time. Hongkong lost the toss and had to play the first half against a blazing sun. Noble sent the ball out to Lowe on the right wing immediately on setting the leather in motion, but Thornhill secured and enabled his side to make an attack upon Hongkong's goal. Lieut. Brown, however, shot wide. Hongkong relieved, and returned to the Engineers' end, where a lot of touch play took place. The soldiers eventually got the best of matters, and ran into Hongkong's quarters, but Mayson relieved to the centre. Looker got possession and sent to Lowe, but the latter kicked the ball over the line. Hongkong made another attack, and Noble compelled Ravenor to throw away. Then a good bit of play was witnessed. Kew sent the ball out to Lowe, but the latter was pressed, and he counter-passed to Looker, who again gave the leather to Lowe, who spurred past Thornhill and shot the ball across the goal's mouth, but Noble failed to take it, and the ball travelled on to Hancock, who put it into the net from short range. Looker was the next to attempt a score, but Thornhill cleared, and a minute later did likewise from Lowe. Still Hongkong pressed, but the ball could not be put through, and the assailed eventually cleared. They could not get near Hongkong's uprights though, for Anton put in a lot of work and repeatedly pushed Ramadan and Mather into touch whenever they secured the ball and attempted to get away. Again the Engineers were besieged, and Hancock tried to break through the defence with a low shot, but the ball went wide. The Engineers then got away and compelled Kew to fist away. Deane was cheered on the wing for occasional bits of smart footwork, but Danby in the end got the best of Deane, and sped away with the ball, and he put in an oblique shot which gave Tavernor all he could do to keep the ball out of the net. Looker also called upon the same custodian a few minutes later. Thornhill miskicked the ball from Anton, and Lowe sped after the leather, but Thornhill just managed to clear in time. Hongkong looked like scoring soon afterwards, but Tavernor opposing, made a miserable attempt in trying to add the point, and kicked the ball high over the bar. The Engineers relieved occasionally with long shots, but for many minutes they were hotly pressed, and were busy defending when lemon-time was called, and the interval was hailed with Hongkong leading by one goal to nil. The score, however, should have been heavier, for several opportunities were missed by Hongkong and the Engineers should have scored one goal at least.

The second half was started, Hongkong immediately instituting an attack, but Robinson relieved the pressure, but not for long, for Hongkong, through Kew, got into the Engineers' preserves again, and the ball was taken right down into the corner by Danby, who shot across the goal. Lowe essayed to score, but he sent the ball spinning over the nets. Ramsden, Dagnall, and Lt. Brown aided prominently in a relief, but Anton secured and put in a huge kick to Kew, who tried a slow shot at goal. Robinson in trying to return the ball conceded a corner. The Engineers' headed away Lowe's centre, but Mayson swooped down upon the ball and cleanly tipped it over the heads of the defenders, and it went just under the bar, clear of Ravenor's hands, into the net. This was all the scoring done, but up to the call of time some very good play was witnessed, each in turn pressing, the Engineers particularly giving Hongkong a good game.

By winning this match Hongkong secures a position in the semi-final. For the losers Thornhill as left back played a capital game. Deane was the pick of the halves, and worried Danby not a little. Mather and Lt. Brown did most of the work forward, and Kerrigan did

very well, except in front of goal, where he failed to shine. Although the Club won, the players lacked go, and the absence of dash around the goalposts was noticeable. Anton was in good form and did some smart things. Mayson played better than we have seen him play before, and Howard did well. Danby again worked brilliantly on the left wing; but in the last two or three matches Lowe has not exhibited such good form; he seems to be somewhat indisposed.

25TH CO. R.A. V. H.M.S. "POWERFUL."

On Monday, the 25th Co., Eastern Division, R. A. played H.M.S. *Powerful* in the third round for the Challenge Shield. The latter team proved itself too good for the soldiers, and won the tie by 3 goals to nil. Whether the *Powerful* won or lost, it mattered little as far as the Shield competition is concerned, for the big cruiser left Hongkong on Monday, and will not return in time for its team to play off the semi-final or the final, even if it had worked into that coveted stage. Those who were successful in scoring the goals for the *Powerful* were: Leather, 2; Heap, 1. Robinson scored for the Artillery. It must be somewhat aggravating to the *Powerful* players to have to leave before the completion of the competition; more so this year, as their going away before the finish is a repetition of what occurred last season.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB V. 38TH CO. R.A.

The Hongkong Football Club on the 8th March met the 38th Co., Southern Division Royal Artillery, on the Happy Valley, and played a game under Association rules. The Club's team was weak forward, and in consequence lost the match by three goals to two. Play had been in progress about 10 minutes when the Club pressed and Green scored the first goal. The R.A. then instituted an attack, and Frost smartly kicked the ball into the net, Green making a charge on Kew and preventing the latter getting at the ball. Green all through the game was smart in making a forward rush when the ball was shot, and worried Kew not a little. Five minutes after the R.A. scored their first goal, they assailed again, and Frost once more put the ball through. Up to the call of half-time the Club had the best of the play, but none of its players could break through the defence of the Artillery, and Mr. Brown blew his whistle for the interval with the R.A. leading by two goals to one.

When the second half was started, Danby moved from the left wing to the centre, and he had been playing in that position for about ten minutes, when the ball was passed to him, and he cleverly evaded two or three opponents, and also beat Murphy, which equalised matters. But the Artillery were not to be denied, and Frost again added another goal. Nothing more was scored up to the call of time, and the soldiers left the ground victorious by three goals to two. For the plucky manner in which the Artillery played, they certainly deserved to win.

The teams lined up as follow:

H.F.C.	ARTILLERY.
Goalkeepers—	
F. Kew	Murphy
Backs—	
Anton	Gidman
Pinckney	P. S. Bell
Halves—	
Mayson	Steel
C. Kew	Kelly
Looker	Brown
Forwards—	
Danby	P. Bell
Hancock	Milne
Yule	Lt. Green
Green	Frost
Seth	Harris

H.M.S. "VICTORIOUS" V. 25TH CO. R.A.

The above teams met on the 9th March to try conclusions in the third round for the Challenge Shield. The sailors' team was full strength, but the Artillery were handicapped by losing four of their old players, and, in consequence, lost the game. Up to half time the play was very close, neither of the teams having much advantage, and as far as the score was concerned, it finished one all.

The sailors lost the toss and had to face the sun, but the game started with some long exchanges, the sailors eventually getting the best of them, enabling Lismore to score. He put in a slow shot, which one of the backs tried to kick away, but he just grazed the ball enough, however, to turn it out of the reach of the goal keeper and make it go between the uprights. The blue jackets for some time after had the best of the play, and Lewis sent in a good shot, but the backs managed to clear, and the forwards rushed up the field. Creighton tried to return the ball, but he missed it, and it looked as if Perigo would get up in time to score, but the goalkeeper ran out and secured. The Artillery still kept up the pressure and Kane, in trying to kick away, gave a corner. The sailors, however, cleared when the ball was centred, and Butland tried a long shot, but the leather went wide of the mark. The kicking at this stage was not good, several of the players misjudging the flight of the ball. Again the sailors pressed and Lismore essayed at goal, but the attempt was futile. Then McNee had a shot for the net and Jackson ceded a corner. The soldiers relieved and gave the bluejackets trouble; but, after a while, the latter cleared, and some give and take play ensued. The Artillery once more bombarded, and Jones secured on the right wing after a tussle with Lewis. Jones then centred to Robinson, and he did the needful, sending in a shot which Bowles failed to reach. This made play interesting, for both teams strived hard to get the upper hand before the call of half-time. The game waged fast and vigorously, but the referee, Mr. Oliver, blew his whistle for the interval with the teams having to their credit one goal each.

The second half had been started only a few minutes when Jones, for the Artillery, smartly secured and rushed along the touch line, clearing all opposition. He sent in a good centre, but the other forwards were not well up, and the ball went over the line on the off side of the goal. For many minutes the Artillery did the aggressive work and caused Bowles to save twice; but the sailors had a look in and McNee compelled Cox to come out from under the bar to clear, which he did in good style. The Artillery once more assailed, but Creighton returned the ball, and after Lismore and McNee had participated in some wing play, the leather was sent to Butland, and he again called upon Cox to save. Then disaster befell the Artillery. For them, unfortunately, a corner was ceded the sailors. Lewis took the flag kick and centred well. Griffiths, however, headed away, but McNee caught the ball on the fly and lifted it over the heads of those around the goal, which compelled Cox to flit out; all cleared away from the goal's mouth and left it to the mercy of Millar, who secured the ball from another pass by McNee, and Millar put his side one goal ahead. The sailors, cheered up by their success and shouts from scores of their shipmates, instituted another attack, and after a scramble around the uprights McNee skilfully managed to get the ball between them. The Artillery tried all they knew to equalize, but the game finished to their disadvantage, the sailors winning the match by three goals to one. The Victorious team now enters for the semi-final, and the game with the Hongkong Club on Saturday should be well worth the visit to Happy Valley.

The teams lined up as follow:

H.M.S. "VICTORIOUS" R. ARTILLERY.

Goalkeepers—	
Bowles	Cox
Backs—	
Creighton	Hutobison
Kane	Jackson
Halves—	
Sorton	White
Wicks	Griffiths
Longmate	Steward
Forwards—	
Millar	Perigo
Lewis	Robinson
Butland	Mulvey
McNee	McMurray
Lismore	Jones

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

SEVENTH CLUB RACE, RESAILED 4TH MARCH.

The course was from the Police Pier, Kowloon, round the Channel Rocks, Kowloon Rock, and North Fairway buoy, all to port; 10 miles.

The following boats started:—A Class, at 2.15 p.m. Active, Maid Marian, Phoebe, Sybil, Chanticleer, and Bonito; and B Class, at 2.30 p.m., Princess, Dart, Payne, and Ladybird.

There was a good strong easterly breeze all through the race, but none of the boats were reefed. In the heat up to Channel Rocks Bonito, Chanticleer, Maid Marian, and Phoebe had a fine race, getting round the Rocks at intervals of about 40 seconds, Active being next, two minutes after, Sybil following about the same after Active. The order was equally close in the second class, Payne, Ladybird, and Princess being round within two minutes, Dart being three minutes after Princess. On the run down to the Fairway buoy after passing Kowloon Rock, Chanticleer, Maid Marian, and Phoebe all passed Bonito, and the buoy was rounded by the four boats within a minute and a half at about a quarter to four. In the second heat up the Bonito again went through the fleet and snatched victory from Chanticleer by six seconds. Ladybird also passed Payne at Kowloon Point on the way down, and held the lead to the

FINISH.

	H.	M.	S.	
Bonito	4	11	17	first, 10 points
Chanticleer	4	11	23	second, 4 "
Maid Marian	4	13	7	third, 1 point
Active	4	15	3	
Phoebe	4	15	25	
Ladybird	4	32	47	first, 10 points
Payne	4	33	37	second, 4 "
Dart	4	39	38	third, 1 point
Princess	4	48	2	

NINTH CLUB RACE, 5TH MARCH.

The course was from the Police Pier, Kowloon, round Channel Rocks, Kowloon Rock, Cosmopolitan Dock buoy, and North Fairway buoy, all to port; 12 miles.

The following boats in A Class started at 1.15 p.m.:—Active, Maid Marian, Phoebe, Erica, Sybil, Chanticleer, and Bonito; and at 1.30 p.m., in B Class, Princess, Dart, Payne, and Ladybird.

The wind was east and very similar to Saturday's breeze and Chanticleer started with a reef which she shook out at Channel Rock, when the order was Chanticleer, Maid Marian (close up), Erica, Bonito, Sybil, Active, and Phoebe, with Ladybird, Payne, Dart, and Princess in the second class. All the marks were rounded in the same order, except that Maid Marian went into first place after passing through the starting line on the way down and an uneventful but quickly sailed race was brought to an end with rather an exciting finish:—

	A CLASS.	Total.
Maid Marian	3 31 49 first, 10 marks	2
Chanticleer	3 32 13 second, 4 "	34
Erica	3 32 40 third, 1 "	80
Bonito	3 35 45	15
Sybil	3 39 44	14
Phoebe	3 43 2	0
Active	3 44 28	1
	B CLASS.	
Ladybird	3 55 12 first, 10 marks	43
Payne	4 2 30 second, 4 "	29
Dart	4 3 14 third, 1 "	34
Princess	4 7 15	13

CRICKET.

THE NAVY V. THE CLUB.

This match was played on Saturday and resulted in a victory for the Club. The following are the scores and analysis:—

THE NAVY.	
Lieut. Jeff, ct Rotherham, b Vallings	8
Rev. C. H. Salisbury, b Langhorne	14
Lieut. Powlett, ct Ward, b Vallings	27
Lieut. White, ct sub., b Vallings	6
Lieut. Barton, not out	88
Lieut. Strong, R.M.L.I., b Langhorne	15
Dr. Sheward, b Vallings	27
Lieut. Wood, b Vallings	0
Mr. Manisty, b Langhorne	16
Lieut. Hall, R.M.L.I., ct Ward, b Langhorne	4
Mr. Elliot, b Langhorne	1
Extras	3
Total	210

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B. Wickets.
Vallings	23	7	69	1	5
Langhorne	18.3	4	69	—	5
Colville	11	3	33	—	—
Lowson	4	—	20	—	—
Mast	3	—	6	—	—

H.K. CLUB.

G. D. Campbell, H.K.R., b Strong	5
J. A. Lowson, ct Powlett, b Manisty	0
H. Hill, R.W.F., ct Steward, b Strong	18
R. A. Johnson, R.W.F., ct Salisbury, b Manisty	13
Capt. Langhorne, R.A., not out	88
A. G. Ward, ct Sheward, b Manisty	68
H. R. Rotherham, R.W.F., ct Hall, b Manisty	0
E. Mast, not out	10
R. M. Colville, R.A., did not bat	—
K. G. Campbell, R.A., ct Sheward, b Manisty	6
Rev. G. R. Vallings, did not bat	—
Extras	3
Total	211

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B. Wickets.
Manisty	13.3	6	85	—	—
Strong	18	4	59	—	2
White	12	1	41	—	—
Elliot	6	—	18	—	—
Hall	5	—	26	—	—

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

MESSING IN THE ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS.

THE MESSING OF THE ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I trust you will be good enough to allow me a small space in your valuable paper to make known a grievance which is, and has been during the whole time we have been in Hongkong, amongst the non-commissioned officers and men of the 2nd Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers, through having to pay 13 cents per diem messing money. I am given to understand that we are the only Regiment or Corps that pays so much, and the most that is paid by any Corps in the Garrison is 8 cents per diem, and the N.C.O.s and men live to their satisfaction on that amount. We know whose order it is that we pay so much, and we all think that 13 cents per diem in Hongkong, where living is much cheaper than in England, is by far too much, and possibly if you would be good enough to make it known it would be the means of our getting it reduced. We all look at it in the light that if we can live on 8 cents per diem messing money, why should we be compelled to spend 13, and I am of opinion that soldiers should make their own arrangements (superintended of course by their Company officer) for their own messing, as it is their own money that they are spending, and as long as the men are satisfied, I think the Commanding Officer should be. The subject, I am told, has been put before him once or twice by Company Officers, and he has ignored it, and at last he issued an order that 13 cents was to be expended. By so doing he has caused almost all the N.C.O.s and men to feel dissatisfied, and we hope that by your publishing a little about it in your valuable paper it might cause this grievance to be put straight. It seems a shame that N.C.O.s and men should be compelled to pay so much when other Corps are not paying anything like that amount, and live quite as well, if not better than we do.

NEW MESSING.

Hongkong, 3rd March, 1899.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The ratepayers of Great Britain are under the impression that their soldiers are now so well educated that they have become men of sense and understanding. From the letter signed "New Messing" in your issue of March 4th it would seem that there are some who have been taught to write, but without sense; and to read, but without understanding.

As the letter may mislead your civilian readers I shall be obliged if you will inform them that The Queen's Regulations make it impossible for an officer to "ignore" the complaints of those under him, even if he wished to do so. I have never heard of a British officer

ignoring the complaints or wishes of his men; he may not always find himself able to accede to their requests, but he is bound to, and invariably does investigate, all matters brought before him.

The Army Order which regulates the messing allowance contains these words:—

"The allowance shall be at the rate of 13 cents of a dollar a day in Hongkong as a contribution towards extra messing hitherto charged to the soldier."

The soldiers who elected to serve under the new Regulations pay nothing for their messing. Those who remained under the old Regulations continue to pay their contribution towards the extra messing, viz., 3d. a day, the equivalent in Hongkong of which is 13 cents.

This allowance is not part of a soldier's pay for him to spend as he wishes, but is made for the express purpose of providing extras to the Government rations; and commanding officers are responsible that it is so expended. The greatest care and attention are paid in the expenditure of this allowance and the soldiers are requested to make their wishes as to choice of extra food known.

I enclose the diet return for this week, and I hope you will show it to any sympathiser with "New Messing" in order that he, or she, may judge whether or no the allowance is spent in the best interest of the soldier and in the manner intended.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

R. B. MAINWARING,
Lt.-Colonel

Comdg. 2nd Batt.
Royal Welch Fusiliers.

Murray Barracks, 6th March, 1899.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"

Sir,—With reference to the grievance about "Soldiers Messing" which was published in a former edition of the *Hongkong Daily Press* I wish to point out two or three facts which were omitted by your former correspondent and which would, I think, materially strengthen the argument in favour of a lower scale of messing. Any intelligent person who read the debates in the House of Commons should know the Act was passed to give the soldier a higher rate of pay. To force the soldier to spend the extra money in food is equivalent to saying he did not get enough to eat under the old regime. When this Act came into force in India (by a similar order) the soldier throughout India was forced to pay 3d per diem messing, an absolute waste of money. The attention of the War Office was called to this; the result was, the order was at once rescinded. Again, the Colonel in command of the Royal Lanc. Regiment tried to enforce 13 cents a day messing scale, but General Black said they were already paying too much, viz., 6 cents a day. The idea seems very prevalent amongst Officers that Tommy Atkins does not care in the least what he gets to eat as long as he gets drunk. This may be true as regards a certain class, but that this applies to the majority of soldiers is absurd. There are hundreds of men in my own Regiment who embraced the new Act with the sole idea of saving a few pounds to start life with on leaving the service.

Colonel Mainwaring says that men under the new Act get their messing for nothing; but what about a soldier who enlisted before the new Act—and 75 per cent. of the Royal Welch Fusiliers did so—does he not forfeit 2d per diem deferred pay formerly placed to his credit? He must remember that the soldier's pay was really 1s. 2d. a day before the new Act was passed. Of course the messing return looks all right and proper, but the fact is we don't want the stuff; we would much rather have the money.

Colonel Mainwaring sneers at the education of the modern soldier. I suppose he does not like us to make our grievances public; but there has never for many years been an Army reform forced on the War Office without the aid of the public Press. It is the Officers themselves who have taught us this.

Can any person tell me why General Black ignored this Army Order, and why it is still ignored by the Artillery and Departmental Corps in Hongkong, who are much better paid than we? The truth is, if Army Orders and Queen's Regulations were always obeyed literally, it would soon be a case of pull the string and the figure will move. We should have a

model army. If the authorities in Hongkong are such sticklers for Army Orders and Queen's Regulations let them refer the matter to the War Office. We can wait. In the meantime we are like Mr. Micawber, waiting for something to turn up.—I remain, yours faithfully,

REFORM.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1899.

THE SAUKIWAN ROAD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—Having occasion to go out and in along the Saukiwan Road several times a month, generally at night-time, I should very much like to know if the police patrols on the road have been withdrawn. About a year ago I never failed to meet at least one policeman on the way between Bay View and Quarry Bay and often I met two, at different points: one European and one Sikh. For many months past, however, although I have passed several times a month along this section, between 7 p.m. and 12-30 a.m., I have not met a policeman of any kind. Several days ago I passed out along the road with two gentlemen, who seldom travel it at night, about 10 p.m., and I mentioned the absence of police on this road at other times. We did not meet one policeman on the whole route between the Parade Ground and Quarry Bay.

Considering that this is the one road in the colony much frequented by bicyclists, who sometimes pass along in numbers and at other times in ones and twos, up to a late hour, surely there should be some police on the road. The Saukiwan Road has a very evil reputation amongst the Chinese, it having been the scene of many highway robberies, sometimes attended with violence and not a few murders. It is true that it is about fourteen years since a European was robbed and murdered on this road, but not many years have elapsed since more than one Chinese was killed on the roadway or alongside of it. Ricksha coolies are not easily induced to take one out along it at night unless there is more than one going out at once, and sometimes they will refuse point blank to proceed, even after coming all the way from the Clock Tower, preferring to sacrifice the first half of their fare rather than proceed past the kerosine works. If induced to go on they will throw constant furtive glances at the shrubbery along the side of the road. About three weeks before last China New Year, when going out along this way at about 9 p.m. a crowd of men who were loafing in the middle of the roadway, some little distance past the Metropole Hotel, crowded round my ricksha, one or two bending forward to scrutinize me, although it was a bright moonlight night and they could easily see that I was a foreigner. I shouted at them and raised my stick and they drew back, whether from fear or that I was not the person they wanted I cannot say. I was so impressed with the idea that someone might be murderously attacked, after I had passed on, that I telephoned from Quarry Bay to the Central Police Station to notify them of this band of suspicious characters on the road. The following morning I heard that a fish hawker, who had been collecting small bills, had been nearly killed on the road (his head was cut open) and robbed of all he had on him, \$16.00. Credible European witnesses who passed along the road early the following morning attested to there being a large quantity of blood still lying on the ground then, at the spot where he was struck down.

The most desperate of Chinese criminals are drawn from the quarrymen and stone-junk-men class. The leader of the Namao pirates when captured was taken out of a stone-junk, at Macao. The fact that when gambling places along the Saukiwan Road are raided the police are met with a vigorous resistance points to the desperate nature of the men who frequent it. Firearms were used against the police in one case last year, as per police report. Some may make light of the murderous assault on and robbery of the small sum from the fish hawker mentioned above, but the smallness of the sum only points to the desperateness of the highwaymen. It is reported that they were waiting for a shroff who had been collecting rents and who was expected to come along the road with several hundred dollars. He wisely stopped the night

at Quarry Bay, and this avoided loss of money and possibly of life.

A gentleman who has resided over thirty years in the colony assures me that for a full month before China New Year the Saukiwan Road is not safe to travel on at night. He said he had himself had the experience of seeing a couple of Chinamen come out from the side of the road and scrutinize him, as he sat in his ricksha, and observed men crouching down on the ground a little in from the road at the point where the two issued from. Were there a regular police patrol such things could hardly happen, or they would at least arrest or order off suspicious characters loitering on the way. I am afraid a solitary policeman might be himself badly handled by the quarrymen, stone-junkmen, or smugglers who frequent this locality were they to attempt an arrest at night and I would suggest that at least four police should patrol the road, going in couples. A bicycle patrol might even be a good plan on these outlying roads, as a dark lantern might be used attached to the bicycle and detachable readily if wanted in hand. A bicycle would have the advantage of speed in moving from place to place and silentness of approach so that evil-doers might be overtaken by surprise.

WAYFARER.

Hongkong, 4th March, 1899.

SIR HALLIDAY MACARTNEY'S NATIONALITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—As a mere foot note to local discussion, may I state that in 1882 Sir Halliday (then Dr.) Macartney told me that he had recently bought some property near his native place in Dumfriesshire,—said property having once been in possession of his forbears. Further, it is within my knowledge that two of Sir Halliday's children have married two of the children of his school-fellow, a Scottish gentleman named Borland. I enclose my card.

EXACTITUDE.

Peking, 20th February, 1899.

T E BARBARITIES PRACTISED ON FATHER VICTORIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—It was with much surprise I noted that a European had gratuitously come forward to justify the ghastly treatment of this poor priest. Surely "Anti-Prejudice" must be in Chinese Government employ; if not they will undoubtedly desire to secure such an advocate and he may aspire at some future time to the Secretaryship of their Legation in London, where peacock feathers and other honours await him, possibly even a baronetcy if he plays his cards well and does not lack in assurance. He must, however, be prepared to earn the profound contempt of all right thinking people by following the course which leads to such elevation.

He says "the case of Father Victorin has been exaggerated, as all these things are." The reverse is the case; certain offensive details have been suppressed, as such are always suppressed in other cases, for obvious reasons. He then proceeds to detail a police record of an exceptionally ghastly series of crimes by a homicidal maniac, which he has evidently diligently unearthed from a police gazette or some other paper of that type. What bearing the crimes he records have on the subject of the treatment of Father Victorin and his converts he alone can recognize. The one is the record of crimes which the authorities had traced to their author and meted out suitable punishment for, crimes which are abhorred by the people as well as the authorities of the West; the other is a statement of barbarities practised at the instigation of the gentry and officials and carried out by a body of the people, barbarities which are accepted by the mass of Chinese as suitable treatment for a foreign priest and his followers.

As to human life being safer in a Chinese city than in an American city, I emphatically dispute that statement, even if advanced on the authority of the gifted author of "Chinese Characteristics." Foreigners travelling in the interior of China constantly require an escort unless they wish to travel at the risk of their lives; Chinese in America can safely travel the

length and breadth of the land without such safeguard. I might well sign myself Anti-Humbag, but am content to remain

OLD CHINA HAND. *

Hongkong, 6th March, 1897.

THE NEGRITOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—One of your contemporaries, speaking of the "cession" of the island of Negros, quotes Mr. John Whitehead, the naturalist, as being the best living authority on the Philippine Islands. This will be news to many, including even Mr. Whitehead himself. Undoubtedly the latter has travelled extensively in the Islands on zoological researches, and thus come in contact with the inhabitants of several of them, but knowing Mr. Whitehead many years before your contemporary's correspondent arrived in the East, I have never yet heard from his lips that he made any special study of the ethnology or anthropology of the islands. The correspondent can hardly have reported him correctly, because I cannot imagine a man of Mr. Whitehead's talent would have fallen into such an error and wished to mislead the public to believe the island of Negros was populated by Spaniards, well-to-do Indian sugar planters, and the "Negrotis!" The Spaniards may possibly represent $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the population, the well-to-do Indian sugar planters $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., the Chinese $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and the Negritos 3 to 4 per cent.; the rest, the great toilers and moilers, are Visayans pure and simple, of the same race and origin as the Tagalogs of Luzon and neighbouring islands. The Negritos of Negros and Luzon, etc.—now fast dying out—are the aboriginal and uncivilized inhabitants of the Archipelago, similar to those found in the mountains of Celebes and other Dutch islands and the "Sakais" of the Malay Peninsula, and of a totally distinct race from the Malays, who in prehistoric times migrated to the Archipelago and form now its ten millions of inhabitants, and with whom Legaspi formed his "blood pact."

Another contemporary gives another version of the "cession" of Negros. Which of the two is right? Other Manila papers state that 4,000 men are under arms ready to repel any American invasion! Time will show whether the three representatives who went up to Manila were really genuine representatives of the people, or simply paid hirelings for political bunkum, emanating from "the high pressure put on by the exalted emotions that develop only across the Atlantic."

VERITAS VINCIT.

Hongkong 7th March, 1899.

PHILIPPINES AFFAIRS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"

SIR,—In the course of your interesting leader on Tuesday last, 23rd February, you refer to arguments which, in the discussion of the many vexed questions connected with the peculiar state of affairs prevailing in the Philippines, "no doubt carry some force amongst those who are able to appreciate them," and you aver that it is asked—"What would be the fate of the Filipinos with a fresh set of officials sent out every four years to govern them and make their fortunes out of them in that term?" As one who has lately taken considerable interest in Philippines affairs and endeavoured to obtain a peaceful and just settlement of questions at issue, in the interest of all (natives and foreigners) who have important commercial interests at stake in the islands, I plead guilty to having expressed the opinion that the extension of the United States Consular system to a semi-military-semi-colonial administration of the Philippines would not be likely to bring forth satisfactory results either as regards the Filipinos—who are undoubtedly entitled to consideration—or the foreigners engaged in commerce in those islands. Many American Senators and many prominent citizens hold this opinion.

Generally speaking, there are no permanent officials in the United States (if we except the naval and military services) and there is no Colonial Service. In the United States there are very few if any employees who can be regarded as fit, by reason of their experience and abilities,

to inaugurate a new system of government suited to the requirements of an Asiatic race. This was clearly admitted by the Hon. John Barrett in the paper he read before the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce a few days ago. These are his words:—

"My friends of Shanghai, were I asked now by you directly what is the great desideratum for American success in the Philippines, I would reply unhesitatingly and yet deliberately *men, men, men*. Given first an Act of Congress providing for a special Civil Service for the Philippines, out of which politics will be barred and bolted, then given, secondly, men of quality and integrity, for we have plenty of them to fill the necessary positions, and the problem of American government of the islands will be for ever solved. Then if this comes, there must follow reform and improvement in the Diplomatic and Consular service, and the United States will enter upon a new and grander epoch of foreign relations, which will benefit herself and other nations alike. Still led by a President whose conduct of the affairs of state during the war and the trying period following the cessation of hostilities has demonstrated his right to rank with our greatest Executives, we may hope for legislation which if it does not at one stroke accomplish what is desired will ultimately achieve the end. Whatever the result, the responsibility at the beginning will rest with him. On the one hand, he can veto evil and form good legislation; on the other hand, if no special service is provided, it remains for him to select the men who will first fill the posts of trust—and as the men so the government."

I think we may take it for granted that Mr. Barrett, at least, is competent to express a trustworthy opinion on this question. I quite agree with him that the great desideratum is "men, men, men." Men, trained colonial administrators, are required. If the United States Government has not at its command suitable men then it follows that, assuming the conquest of the islands, with all its attendant horrors and dislocation of trade, is successfully accomplished, the inhabitants of the islands will be subjected to a series of experiments by amateur colonial administrators. Apart from the question of the right of the Filipinos to the measure of self-government which responsible and duly authorised United States officials promised them, I ask—Is it fair, is it right, that a people who have shewn so much ability for self-government in face of the great difficulties caused, in the main, by the vacillation of the United States Executive should be subjected to experiments of such a nature? Is it not natural that they object to being experimented upon? They have been subjected to Spanish "experiments" for 300 years and found the process so unpleasant that they resolved to rid themselves of their oppressors or perish in the attempt, and the blood of hundreds of thousands has in recent times been freely shed in the cause of Liberty, Legality, and Peace.

Closely allied with this question of the preparedness of the United States to administer the country in a satisfactory manner is the possession of knowledge of the requirements of the people who are to be governed. Now, we have it on the authority of Commissioner Schurman (as reported in a telegram dated Washington, 16th January, and published in the *San Francisco Chronicle*) that the object of the Philippines Commission is "solely for the purpose of acquiring information concerning the social considerations obtaining in the islands. It will make no recommendations as to governmental forms or methods. Its purpose is educational solely." Seen by a representative of the *China Mail* on the 27th February Professor Worcester is reported to have said:—

"The Commission would sit in Manila and hear the testimony of witnesses from all classes of the communities in order to advise as to the best mode of government to be adopted in the Islands. The Commission was invested with certain discretionary powers, but it was to act chiefly as an advisory board to the President. It was quite possible before the Commissioners completed their work that they should have to visit the important provinces. They wanted to do the best they possibly could for the people of the Islands, and no efforts were to be spared in obtaining the most reliable information."

The contradictory nature of the two statements is remarkable. One Commissioner says distinctly that no recommendations will be made as to governmental forms or methods, while the other, who is subordinate to Mr. Schurman, states positively the Commission will advise as to the best mode of government to be adopted in the islands. Thus the hapless Filipinos, as well as merchants of various nationalities who have large commercial interests in these unhappy islands, are left in as much doubt as to the real objects in view respecting the Commission as they are, and have been for months past, regarding:—

(a.) the all-important tariff question;

(b.) the kind of indefinite promise that when they are deemed by Mr. McKinley to be fitted for it the Filipinos will be granted self-government.

As you very rightly point out in your leader of Tuesday last, "the United States have given no guarantees at all, but ask the Filipinos to submit unconditionally and trust to Providence that they may find their new masters kinder than the old ones." The resistance of the Filipinos, as you assert, is not surprising under the circumstances. If they did not resist under such circumstances they would be fit only for the rule of others; they would give strong evidence of total unfitness for self-government.

As regards the expression of your opinion that "the time seems to have arrived when the Americans should definitely state what their intentions are" I believe every unprejudiced reader of your journal is ready to say "Hear, hear." It is the indecision, the vacillation of the United States Executive that has caused recently so much ill feeling. The tension, long suspense caused by failure of the United States to definitely state what their intentions are in respect of their promises to the Filipinos, the tariff to be imposed on imports and exports, the studied attempt to falsify the position of Aguinaldo and discredit his envoys, his friends and advisers, and—as an American journal said the other day—by establishing a censorate of telegrams "cut him off from his advisers at a critical time and prevent alarming news from reaching the States from Manila," has been more than most nations could stand. Yet up to the time of the recent and deeply regrettable hostilities near Manila and the bombardment, without the observance of due warning, of Iloilo, there was no anarchy in the country. The Post and Telegraph services were in operation and working smoothly, trade was being carried on by the usual routes and in the usual way, while a set of government offices and a national Congress had been established at Malolos which, I submit, will not suffer by comparison with similar institutions in Young Japan. The only anarchy existing for months past is that which has recently been caused, as I intimate, by the vacillation and aggression of the States. It was Lord Salisbury who a few years ago, when speaking at the Lord Mayor's banquet, said that England could not be held blameless for the shocking state of affairs then prevailing in Ireland. He added—and he then, as now held office as Prime Minister—England has been guilty of the crime of vacillation. She had been hot under one ministry (in her dealings with Ireland) and cold under another, there had been no fixed policy. This unsettled the minds of people and encouraged and engendered suspicion and gusts of passionate and often ill informed feeling among great masses of population which it was most difficult to repress. He then went on to say that this crime of vacillation should cease and England would gradually by the adoption of a fixed policy, tempered with justice, confer on the people of Ireland the blessings of Peace. Now, it is just this crime of vacillation that the United States Executive is, I consider, guilty of in respect to their dealings with the Philippines, as everybody who has taken the smallest interest in Philippine affairs since May last must be fully aware. It may be due to many causes; and I suggest that one of them is the realization by some American statesmen that, as Mill says in his "Representative Government":—

"To determine the form of government most suited to any particular people we must be able among the defects and shortcomings which belong to that people to distinguish which are the immediate impediments to progress, to dis-

cover what it is which (as it were) stops the way. The best government for them is the one which tends most to give them that for want of which they cannot advance, or advance only in a lame and lop-sided way."

Is the United States Executive able to distinguish what are the immediate impediments to progress in the Philippines? Surely not, otherwise there would be no need of a Commission sitting in Manila, which, we are told, is to act as an Advisory Board to President McKinley. Well, then, seeing that the U.S. Executive in May last knew even less than it does now about the prevailing conditions in the Philippines was it not wise policy on the part of Admiral Dewey, Consul-General Pratt of Singapore, and others to promise Aguinaldo self-government and allow him to issue, without protest, a Declaration of Independence and form a National Republican Government—government of the people, by the people, for the people? I contend that it was wise policy. It was a policy that made for peace. The arrangement with Aguinaldo was wholly in keeping with the declaration made by President McKinley that in going to war with Spain he was not guided by any intention of territorial expansion, but was only guided by the principles of humanity, the duty of liberating tyrannized people, and the desire to proclaim the inalienable rights of sovereignty of the countries released from the yoke of Spain. And although this was the object in view, and these people have all along been willing that the United States should retain a coaling and naval station in the islands and establish a Protectorate, and even to contribute towards the war expenses, we now find the United States Government placing itself in a position to obtain for itself—even at the cost of a bloody, desolating war, if necessary—sovereign rights and prerogatives for which the trifling sum of twenty million dollars has been paid to Spain. The Philippines would indeed be cheap at the price even if inhabited only by the much despised negro or the fading red-skins. But it so happens that irrespective of the enormous tracts of land cultivated by the natives and their enormously valuable house property there are many foreigners with large commercial interests there, to say nothing of the magnificent properties of the Church which may be valued, roughly, at forty millions of dollars. To get all this for twenty millions seems incredible, and yet that is what Spain accepted. It was just about the market value of the only spots in the islands (Iloilo and Zamboanga) of which she had possession when the Treaty was signed in Paris. I cannot help thinking that there are some ins-and-outs connected with this deal and the apparently ill-advised policy of the States in endeavouring to force on the people a system of government which their accredited representatives strongly and, I think, reasonably, object to. It is possible that the truth will leak out before long—*magna est veritas et prevalebit*. In the meantime Filipino sympathisers—and I declared myself one in my letter published in the *Hong-kong Telegraph* on the 13th December and since reproduced in various parts of the world—may be excused if they bear in mind the President's Message to Congress a year ago last December. In that Message he said:—"I speak not of forcible annexation, because that is not to be thought of, and under our code of morality that would be criminal aggression."

When in November last I took up my pen to write on Philippines affairs I said I would not have taken that step had I not the assurance from those in authority that the Filipinos desire Peace. If I had reason for believing that the Filipinos were to blame, that they actually commenced the recent hostilities, I could not have continued to interest myself in their cause, for such action on their part would have been a violation of a clear understanding. I have, however, no reason to suppose that they acted so foolishly—they had everything to lose and absolutely nothing to gain by coming to blows with Americans. We are told under the headline "First Shot of the Fight" in the *Manila Times* of the 14th February that "on Saturday evening (4th) at 9 o'clock an Insurgent Lieutenant advanced with a few men and disregarded the challenge from the sentinel near No. 2, and endeavoured to carry out his usual plan. Private Grayson of D Company, Nebraskas, after

properly challenging the advancing party, which paid no attention to him, fired, killing the Lieutenant and a private. The Insurgents returned the fire and retreated. These were the first shots, and then for a time the firing ceased.

The battle really began when Sergeant Oran A. Curtis ordered his men to fire upon a large body of Insurgents who were attempting to cross the river opposite his post. Volley after volley was fired in quick succession, which sent them scrambling back to their fortifications." *Freedom* (Manila) makes the same statement. Owing to the collision on 4th February and the inability of the Filipinos to get their side of the affair promptly before the American people it is not improbable the U.S. Government was able to get the majority by which the Treaty, with the obnoxious Philippines purchase clause, was carried through the Senate. I shall have more to say about this when I receive reports from the States at an early date. That point, however, is a matter quite foreign to the main issue and I have no desire to waste valuable time in discussing it. This is not the time for recrimination. What we have to consider is the attitude of the Filipinos, for if they are bent on a continuance of the war which has so unfortunately commenced there is danger of the foreign trade of the country—chiefly British—being greatly interfered with for two or three years. And worse still: If an obnoxious system of Government is forced on the people at the point of the bayonet I think it may be taken for granted that the blessings of lasting peace will never be observable in the country, and instead of the United States being in a position to render us valuable assistance in forcing open the door of commerce in China, which is now ajar and being gradually shut by our trade rivals, we shall find our cousins complaining of the strain on their finances caused by a large army of occupation in the Philippines, the decline of trade with the islands, and an utter lack of disposition to expend millions, and perhaps sacrifice valuable lives, in securing for all time a dominant position in the greatest market in the world. I am very glad, though, to be able to assure you, sir, that the Filipinos are as willing to-day as they ever were to stand by the arrangement made with General Aguinaldo before he returned to Cavité last May, from Hongkong, on board the U.S.S. *McCulloch*. The Filipinos wish for Peace, they desire that there shall be "a fair field and no favour" in their country, and they desire that the United States should establish, as originally agreed, a protectorate. In conclusion I beg to assure you that I am in a position to prove that the Agreement with General Aguinaldo; made with Admiral Dewey through Consul-General Pratt, and sanctioned by the U. S. Government, was as follows:—

- I.—Independence of the Philippines under an American Protectorate to prevent foreign aggression.
- II.—The ports of the Philippines to be free to the trade and commerce of all nations.
- III.—Due precautions to prevent influx of Chinese aliens.
- IV.—Complete reformation of present corrupt judicature under experienced European advisers.
- V.—Entire freedom of the Press, of association, and of public meeting.
- VI.—Complete religious toleration.
- VII.—Facilities to be given for developing the natural resources of the islands accompanied with the removal of hindrances to the development of industries.
- VIII.—The opening up of the whole country by means of wide roads and railways.
- IX.—All Spanish officials to be removed to some place of safety pending repatriation to Spain.
- X.—Expulsion of the religious corporations. [This has special reference to the Friars.]
- XI.—General Aguinaldo to guarantee to preserve law and order and prevent reprisals against defenceless Spaniards.

Enclosed herewith I have the pleasure to hand you a copy of the official protest of the Filipino Government against the purchase clause in the Treaty of Peace; also a copy of a Memorandum bearing on the right of the Philippine Republic to recognition which was lodged with the State Department, Washington, in January by Mr. Lopez, private secre-

tary to Mr. F. Agoncillo, the special envoy of the Filipino National Government. Agoncillo was given to understand that the mere act of sending such a document in to the Department was impudence and that it could be neither considered nor answered. The covering letter explained that on the 6th January Agoncillo asked for an audience to present his credentials as envoy from the Philippine Republic to the President of the United States, and expressed regret that up to the 11th January he had received no answer. He was told that his communications could not be considered or even answered. It is remarkable that not only did the United States Executive studiously avoid recognizing both the Cuban and Filipino leaders until quite recently, but I find from files of papers received by the English mail yesterday that "liberated" Cuba resents American interference with its domestic affairs just as much as the Filipinos. That, at least, is what I infer from the New York special correspondence published in *The Scotsman* on 2nd February. It reads as follows:—

"President McKinley has at length decided to take official recognition of General Gomez. Mr. Robert Porter will accordingly invite the Cuban leader to a conference at Havana, and there seek to persuade him to accept three million dollars as the first instalment of the Cuban army's pay; and on condition of its disbandment. It is expected that General Gomez will decline this proposal, on the ground that the Cuban Assembly is entitled to have all the pay, which it puts at sixty million dollars, handed over, before the men disarm. The Government admits some uneasiness on confirmation of the report that a great quantity of ammunition, and over two thousand rifles, have been found concealed near Santiago de Cuba and Holguin. The Cuban guards in charge of these arms at first resisted their seizure. After yielding, they threatened vengeance on the Americans. The entire eastern part of the island is now said to be in a state of simmering revolt against American control."

Trusting you may see your way to favouring this letter with space in your columns and thanking you in anticipation therefor,—I remain, Sir, Yours faithfully.

THE HANKOW-CANTON RAILWAY AND ITS EXTENSIONS.

With reference to the proposed Hankow-Canton Railway, the Chinese Director Chang Taotai, formerly Consul-General at Singapore, has informed his friends that the line will begin at Canton, pass Fatsan to the city of Samshui on the West River. From this place the trunk line will go across and enter Hunan joining at Hankow the Lu-Han Railway. From Samshui again there will be constructed branch lines; namely, one to Kweilin, the capital of Kwangsi province, which will be called the Western branch line; while from Canton there will be an Eastern branch line connecting that city with Huichou, thence to Swatow and northward into Fokien province. The Viceroy T'an has already detailed one Battalion of 500 men of the Chien Regiment to act as a guard to the workers on the new railway, which it is intended to begin early in May next.—*N. C. Daily News*.

ACCIDENT TO THE M. M. STEAMER "SYDNEY."

Shanghai, 2nd March.

On the first of the flood, one o'clock yesterday afternoon, the French mail steamer *Sydney* carried away her buoy shackle whilst swinging in the upper reach. The starboard anchor was immediately let go, but the wind that was blowing across the reach carried her over towards the Pootung shore. On the tautening of the cable the vessel swung round with considerable force and fouled the P. & O.'s tender *Gutlaff*, which was at her buoy, the stem of the tender smashing in two of the steamer's plates and denting a third just abaft the after gangway on the port side. The heel of the mail steamer then touched the bank and she swung round head up river dragging her anchor home. Assistance was immediately summoned and Mr. W. Carlson, Assistant Harbour Master, accompanied by Mr. R. A. T.

Anderson, pilot, promptly boarded her. Capt. Aubert of the *Sydney* engaged the five available tugs and every effort was made to tow the vessel off. A nine-inch hawser was also carried out to the Company's buoy and hove on by the powerful winches on board, but all to no avail. At five o'clock, as the water had fallen, the tow boats cast off. It is anticipated that the steamer will be towed off on this morning's high water.

3rd March.

The M. M. Co's steamer *Sydney* was floated, under her own steam and assisted by four tugs, at 4 a.m. yesterday and made fast to the Company's buoy. She came off quite easily, and is none the worse for having been on the mud.—*N. C. Daily News.*

THE SAIGON RICE DUTY.

The export duty on rice has, we learn from Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co.'s circular, been altered since the 7th February and now stands as follows:—

	For France and French colonies.		All other destinations without distinction.	
	Per 100 kilos net.		Per 100 kilos net.	
	Land Tax.	Customs duty.	Land Tax.	Customs duty.
White Rice	\$0.19 cts	Nil.	\$0.19 cts	0 fr.32 cts
Cargo Rice under 33 p. c. Paddy	0.15	"	0.15	0 42
Cargo Rice over 33 p. c. Paddy	0.12	"	0.12	0 76
Paddy	0.12	"	0.12	0 76
Broken Rice	0.09	"	0.09	3 p.c. ad valorem
Rice flour	0.05	"	0.05	3 p.c.

In addition to the above, there is a *Droit de statistique* of 10 centimes per 1,000 kilos, when in bulk, and 10 centimes per package on packed goods.

FRENCH ANGLOPHOBIA.

The *Courrier d'Haiphong* has a long article headed "The English friendship" which opens with the question "Could we become friends with the English?" and proceeds to discuss the relations of the two nations in various parts of the world, namely, Madagascar, China, Newfoundland, the Sudan, and Indo-China. We translate the following passages:—

In China England strives to thwart our action and to ruin our influence. At the Court of Peking the English Minister loses no occasion of protesting against the advantages accorded to France. Do we obtain a territorial or railway concession, forthwith England protests. Her rights are violated, her influence diminished, etc., etc. Always the same song, the whole world ought to belong to the English. Let us recall a recent incident, that of Shanghai. There existed in the French Concession a Chinese cemetery where in recent years seven or eight hundred corpses in badly jointed coffins had accumulated. We had asked for and obtained the removal of this focus of epidemics. But China wished to retain the ownership of the cemetery; France consented to this on condition that her Concession was enlarged by an area equivalent to that of the cemetery. What could be more just? The Chinese Government consented, but the English still protested and the Court of Peking took back its word. We see in this deplorable affair the hand of Lord Charles Beresford, charged with a pretended commercial mission to China and who filled the Far East with the noise of his warlike speeches and his suspicious negotiations with the Chinese authorities.

In Indo-China it would be easy to find traces of their meddling. The Government ought to be informed on this point. We have on a previous occasion stated that M. Doumer had to curtail his intended stay in France because he was advised of certain intrigues which required to be watched on the spot. It is said that the enquiries made in connection with the last disturbance at Hanoi revealed the action of foreign emissaries. England covets Indo-China, where our presence circumscribes her influence in China, which is, as will be understood, truly regrettable. She will do anything—and it will be understood what is meant by that—to cause us the greatest embarrassment possible. The construction of railways frightens her; the

projected line to Yunnan is a nightmare to her, for she is afraid that the whistle of our locomotives may be heard there before hers. She has already protested at Peking against the authorisation given to France to prolong this line to Yunnan-sen. We may be sure that she will not be sparing of her snares. Let us respond on our side by the calmness, energy, and force given by the consciousness of right and by the activity which all, Governor, Residents, and contractors, desire to promote in the construction of our railways.

From all these facts the impossibility of our being united in bonds of friendship with France clearly appears. Wherever we meet her she treats us as enemies; everywhere she tries to destroy us; all means seem right to her. *Qui veut la fin veut les moyens*, says the proverb. England acts on this principle in her international relations, which are based on a ferocious egotism. The English alliance would be more than a deception, it would be a plague for France. Let us never forget these monstrous words spoken in London after the Fashoda incident:—"Never was there an occasion more favourable for England to declare war against France, which would destroy French influence throughout the world for fifty years to come."

AMOY NOTES.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Amoy, 4th March.
During the last few months the community has been in somewhat of a flutter, looking forward with pleasurable anticipation to the arrival of Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Henry of Prussia, as on the former short visit of the Prince his genial disposition had gained many admirers. While he was always gracious he never forgot what was due to him, and some of our most ardent Republicans were enthusiastic in his praise. Such being the case one can readily imagine that the successful attempt of certain pushing members—leading residents of their own creation—to place themselves before Royalty has excited feelings of pity. It appears that certain Britishers offered, without consulting any of the leading members of the community, entertainment to the Royal party. A picnic was decided on and has taken place. When it is said that the only people who were considered eligible to sit down at the tables were members of the Amoy Club I think it is enough to show that Thackeray did certainly not include the outport snob when he wrote his celebrated book on the subject, or he would have added several pages necessary to describe the local specimen, a species not found, it is hoped, in Europe. When and where does membership of a local Club make the gentleman? Echo answers, nowhere! And yet many estimable residents have been relegated to outer darkness, because they were not members of this particular circle. While a Club has the right to select its members, it has not the right to delegate itself as the mouthpiece of the community.

The Amoy community as compared with many outports stands high as regards character, and the writer, who has resided in many outports during the last twenty-five years, has never found a higher standard of intelligence and respectability than exists here; therefore it is the more to be deprecated that a certain few should call themselves the *elite* and exclude others who are every whit their equals from assisting to entertain the grandson of their beloved Queen.

While the writer would be the last to lift the veil surrounding private interests, he cannot but mention that the action of certain residents who have controlled the invitations to meet Royalty has been ill-timed and has caused more heartburning and strong language than any event in the history of Amoy for many years.

The following is the heading of the invite cards to the picnic, on which comment is unnecessary:—"The Club members of the British Community of Amoy have the honour to request the company of etc., etc."

Messrs. Butterfield & Swire have completed the building of their offices and large godowns on either side, and as soon as they connect the hulk *Shanghai* with the bund they will be in an unrivalled position to deal with the Northern trade.

The steam launch traffic inland, if the number of passengers at present carried is any guide, must be a paying business, as the launches always appear to be crowded.

It is rumoured that our two local companies, the Amoy Dock and Moalle & Co., will pay very handsome dividends for the past year.

Unfortunately for Amoy, a considerable amount of smallpox is reported to exist among the native population.

A number of important changes are, I believe, about to take place. H.B.M.'s Consul, Mr. C. T. Gardner, C.M.G., etc., etc., proceeds to the homeland after a residence here of several years, and I state the "simple truth" when I say the prayers and good wishes of the greater portion of the residents follow him. I understand that the foreign officials who have had to consult with him are of the unanimous opinion that he has worthily filled his important post. The native officials are, I am told, more reserved in their expressions of approval. Socially Mr. Gardner has ever been extremely active in furthering all efforts made for our amusement and has caused many a "poor heart to rejoice." That he may long live to enjoy the honourable retirement he has earned is the wish of all.

One of our two German firms has closed, and the representative, Mr. M. Michelsen, soon departs for the Fatherland. The Consular interests of Sweden and Norway, which he has so ably represented for years, have been handed over to the efficient Consul for the Netherlands, Mr. A. Piehl. Mr. Michelsen during his long residence at Amoy has earned the respect and friendship of all, and he certainly "will be missed."

Mr. Bennett, the able British Consular Assistant, has already left for Ningpo, to assume the duties of Consul.

The Commissioner of Customs, Mr. Noyes Morehouse, goes on leave next month, so it is reported. Various opinions are expressed as to his administration, but it is admitted that his term of office has been marked by a desire to accommodate the mercantile community as far as possible. The departure of Mrs. Noyes Morehouse will cause a feeling of sorrow among the juvenile community, who always looked forward to the entertainment provided for their amusement at Christmas. In theatricals, notably the "Tableaux" given some time ago, and at social events she has always given her talent and labour, as far as possible. Mr. Law, the representative of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, leaves us also, and Mr. Macdavis, agent of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, is transferred, to the regret of all who have had occasion to enter the portals of the financial institution he has managed with such success.

The German men-of-war *Deutschland* and *Irene* leave for Woosung on the 8th. The Officers have been welcomed and will leave behind them pleasant memories of their stay here.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

MACAO, 9th March.

The transport *Africa* arrived on Sunday last bringing about ninety European soldiers and forty Indians for the Garrison. The men landed on Monday morning, and marched to their quarters, headed by the Regimental Band. The transport also brought a quantity of warlike stores, including rifles, and electric materials for the Telephone department. She is to pay a visit to Hongkong for the purpose of being docked, after which she will return here, remain a few days, and then leave on her homeward voyage. She left Lisbon in November last, and on her way out has visited all the Portuguese colonies, including Goa. It is said she is to follow the same route on her way home.

During the past week there have been several cases of suicide by opium. Two Chinese girls about fourteen or fifteen years of age, servants in a private house, were found to have taken opium and were removed to the Chinese hospital, but the measures taken for their recovery were unsuccessful. The day before yesterday two Chinamen also took opium and were removed to the hospital, but they also died from the effects of the poison. In neither case is the motive for the suicide known.

Yesterday morning the Harbour Police arrested four or five men belonging to the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service who came into Portuguese waters to capture a junk which had some rice on board, the export of rice from China being prohibited. The men are now enjoying free board and lodging in the gaol.

The Lisbon Government having expressed a desire that all the Portuguese colonies should be represented at the Paris Exhibition a committee has been formed here under the presidency of the Chief Justice and including several Chinese members to make arrangements for the representation of Macao.

D'Aro's Marionettes have taken out a licence to give performances here for a month. The Bijou Theatre is to be erected on the Reclamation ground at Tapsiac.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGCI SAN PO."]

It is reported that the newly appointed Tartar General of Kwangtung has left Peking for Canton where he is expected to arrive at the end of next month.

Governor Luk Chuen-lam has given instructions to the Magistrates of Nam-hoi and Pun-yu districts that they are not to detain people connected with the cases brought before them whether the prosecutor or the prosecuted, except in cases of emergency. The order is warmly appreciated by all the Chinese, for the detention of people in the yamens pending the investigation of the cases concerned afforded chances to the yamen people to make their squeezes and it is a fact that the Chinese are willing to stand any amount of suffering rather than present themselves before the mandarins to be maltreated and squeezed by the yamen people, who do not receive any wages from the mandarins and simply watch for chances of squeezing. People ordered to be detained by the Magistrate in the yamen are kept under the custody of the yamen people, who lock them up in exceedingly dirty rooms, worse than a dirty water closet giving them no food and no bedding until their friends and relatives come forward to amply bribe the custodians. Sometimes a person is detained in the yamen for many years although the case may be only a minor one, if there is no influential Sansz to stand bail, which bail is represented by influence and not by money. It is not uncommon for the Chinese to successfully bribe the yamen runners not to take them before the Magistrate, if a warrant is issued for their arrest.

The party of engineers and experts of the Canton-Hankow Railway Syndicate have completed their survey up to Kupong, in Pun-yu district, and are buying land from the owners holding title deeds.

A school for European teaching has been established inside the Kwong-Ah College by Viceroy Tan. An examination was held the other day to select boys. Over six hundred boys attended the examination and sixty were selected.

HONGKONG.

H.M.S. *Powerful* left for Manila on 7th March.
H.M.S. *Bonaventure* left on 8th March for Shanghai.

The Austrain cruiser *Kaiserin Elisabeth* arrived on the 9th March from Singapore.

There were 2,623 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 163 were Europeans.

A Scotch concert under the patronage of the St. Andrew's Society is announced for the 25th March.

Mr. A. M. Marshall, of the P. & O. Company, left on Saturday by the *Coromandel* to take charge of the Singapore agency.

The return of the cases of communicable disease notified as occurring in the colony last week is as follows:—Bubonic plague 5 cases, 5 deaths; diphtheria, 1 case; enteric fever, 1 case, 1 death; smallpox, 2 cases, 1 death.

Mr. J. G. Spooner, chief excise officer, appeared at the Magistracy on the 8th March on behalf of the opium farmer, who was charged with having an uncertificated master on board the steam launch *Wing Kwai*. A fine of \$25 was imposed.

We are informed by Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son, General Managers Oliver,

Freehold Mines, Limited, that they have received the following telegram from the Mines:—"Mill ran 24 days crushing 590 tons of stone for a yield of 294 ozs. of retorted gold."

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following telegram from the mines, giving the result of the February clean up:—"The mill ran 27 days, crushing 2,750 tons, yielding 173 ozs. of smelted gold. The gold won by cyaniding is estimated to value £27 sterling."

The Rev. Father Vignano, who has been long resident in Hongkong, is returning to Italy, for reasons of health, and will travel by the Italian cruiser *Marco Polo* as chaplain. The Rev. Father is a well-known and popular member of Hongkong Society and his departure and its cause will be regretted by a large circle.

At a meeting of the Football Shield Committee held on Friday, after hearing the evidence of the referee as to repeated and dangerous fouling in a Shield tie on 27th February last, it was resolved in accordance with rule 16 of the Competition to suspend Private Bevan of A Company of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers till the end of November next, and in accordance with the above-quoted rule any Association Club, or player, playing with or against Private Bevan shall also be dealt with in such manner as the Committee shall think fit.

At the Magistracy on the 7th March a Chinawoman was charged with infringing the exclusive right of the Postmaster-General by attempting to convey letters from Hongkong to Canton. P. S. Ritchie was on duty on the Canton wharf when he saw defendant go on to the steamer carrying a bundle. Being suspicious of the contents, he examined them and found that they were letters. On the woman being taken to the Central Police Station she was found to have quite a number of letters concealed about her person. She was conveying about 500 letters altogether. She was fined \$100, or two months.

At the Magistracy on the 8th March a coolie was charged with stealing clothes from No. 8, Tai Wo Street, on Tuesday night. Several petty thefts have been committed in the locality recently, and seeing defendant loitering about Tai Wo Street P.C. Kerr became suspicious and kept him in view, he watching from one end of the street and P.C. Terrett from the other. After a time defendant was seen to get a bamboo pole, with which he reached some clothing from the verandah of No. 8. The constables then seized him and took him to the Police Station. Defendant, who had been previously convicted, was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

During the last few days reports have been in circulation to the effect that the Military Authorities were negotiating for the purchase of the Peak Hotel and that the transaction was practically closed. On enquiry we learn that matters have not gone quite so far as that, no formal negotiations having as yet been opened, but from the existence of the rumour it may be inferred that there is something in the air. In view of the popular dissatisfaction caused by the transfer of the Mount Austin Hotel to the military it is to be assumed that the public would desire to preserve the Peak Hotel, and if so it might be prudent to take steps to that effect while there is yet time, for if the matter is deferred it may, as in the case of the Mount Austin, be closed suddenly without giving time to float a Company to take over the property. We understand that both the Peak Hotel and Craigieburn are now paying handsomely. The proprietors are naturally not influenced by sentimental considerations and are prepared either to continue to run the establishments on their present basis or to sell to the Military or to the public if offers are received that make it worth their while to sell. Should the present reports prove to have no foundation in fact, it may nevertheless be taken for granted that if the Peak Hotel is allowed to continue in private ownership the Military authorities will sooner or later make a bid for it, and possibly also for Craigieburn.

The Governor's assent to the Vehicles Ordinance is notified in the *Gazette*, and a further notification intimates that the provisions with respect to the carrying of lights will be enforced in respect of jinrickshas, chairs, trucks, and trollies from the 1st May next, and

that bicycles, tricycles, and carriages will be required to carry lights "from the date of this notice," that is, from the 1st March, although the notice is only published on the 4th March and it was not known before that date that the Governor had even sanctioned the Ordinance. The provision with regard to the carrying of lights by private chairs is ridiculous and can have been designed only in thoughtlessness or with the view of causing annoyance and letting the community feel the weight of the official hand. In one of the cholera epidemics on the Continent some years ago a train load of disinfectants that arrived at the frontier of one of the countries where precautionary measures were enforced was carefully disinfected by the authorities. The requirement that private chairs should carry twinkling little lamps in the full glare of the electric light and Welsbach burners is not less absurd. The Governor came to us with a reputation for strong common sense, and the delay in notifying his assent to the Vehicles Ordinance, which was passed by the Legislative Council on the 8th February, led to the belief that His Excellency was about to justify his reputation by causing the Ordinance to be amended. It is to be regretted that he has not done so.

At the Magistracy on 8th March before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Chan Po, a house boy at Murray Barracks, was charged with being a rogue and vagabond and with being found in a room at Murray Barracks occupied by Captain C. E. Bancroft, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Tsoi Chan, boy to Captain McMahon, who lives at Murray Barracks, said:—"At half-past eight on Tuesday night I went upstairs to my master's room, and seeing defendant coming out I asked him why he had been in. He did not say anything but ran away. I followed and stopped him on the stairs. I again asked him why he came out of the officer's room and he replied, 'I went to get a key.' I took him down to the sergeant. Captain McMahon was at mess. Defendant used to be employed by the officers' mess as a washer-up. He was discharged yesterday afternoon. He was never Captain McMahon's servant. He was not allowed to go to the second floor into the officers' rooms.—Henry Yates, Mess Sergeant, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, said:—"Defendant was a general coolie in the mess. No part of his duties took him into the officers' rooms. He was under notice to leave, and was to go out of barracks to-day. About half-past eight last night I heard a noise. I went out of the mess room to see what it was, and met the last witness in charge of defendant.—Chan Shui, a boy in the officers' mess of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, said:—"I am boy to Captain Bancroft. At half-past eight last night I went upstairs to my master's room. I lit a candle and found a gold chain on the floor of the verandah and 40 cents in ten-cent pieces. The chain was my master's. My master's room is next to Captain McMahon's.—Defendant:—"I went upstairs to get a pot. The pot was broken and belonged to the mess. I had placed it in the bath-room. The last witness said I stole the gold chain, but no chain was found.—He was sentenced to three months' hard labour."

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON, 2nd March.—The market is closed, and there is nothing further to be shipped.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai.....	12,230,663	15,099,727
Foochow	12,545,346	12,160,708
Amoy.....	688,818	685,651
Canton	5,149,722	5,889,288
	30,614,049	33,836,374

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98.
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai.....	16,621,547	20,836,000
Amoy	15,036,418	15,861,506
Foochow	7,297,412	7,126,264
	38,956,372	43,823,770

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	22,783,272	19,462,293

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama...	25,517,085	26,414,353
Kobe	13,658,363	15,602,238
	39,176,448	42,016,641

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 4th March.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular.)—The Home markets still keep firm; in London Blue Elephants are quoted at 13/0 and Gold Kilings at 11/6. The quotation in Lyons for the latter chop is Fcs. 32. Raw Silk.—Settlements are on a very small scale. Yellow Silk.—About 50 bales have changed hands. Arrivals, as per Customs Return, 25th February to 3rd March, are: 76 bales White 219 bales Yellow and 186 bales Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—We have again to advise a good demand for Hand Filatures, especially for America; prices keep very steady. Steam Filatures show an advance, and a fair business has been done; settlements of Hand and Steam Filatures amount to some 500/600 bales, chiefly forward delivery. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 2,853 bales to France, 2,156 bales to America, and 129 bales to England. Wild Silk.—About 200 bales have been settled. Waste Silk.—Market quiet. Shantung Pongees.—Settlements of 3,000 pieces of the following are reported:—

19 in. by 19 yds. by 26/27 oz. ...at Tls. 4.70
19 in. by 19 yds. by 25 oz.at Tls. 4.30/4.40
19 in. by 19 yds. by 23/24 oz.at Tls. 4.20

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1898-99	1897-98
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	55,006	45,826
Canton	27,940	19,842
Yokohama	18,490	17,802
	101,436	83,470

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	8,643	9,951
Canton	8,710	10,440
Yokohama	24,342	28,530
	41,695	48,921

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 10th March.—An active demand has been experienced and the advance in prices continues. Quotations for Formosa are \$69.50 to \$69.80. Sales 33 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 10th March.—There is little change to report in the position of this market, the tone continuing weak. Quotations are:—

Sheklong, No. 1, White...	\$7.80 to 7.83	per picul.
do. " 2, White...	7.13 to 7.18	"
Sheklong, No. 1, Brown...	5.15 to 7.20	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.95 to 5.00	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.65 to 7.70	"
do. " 1, White...	7.05 to 7.10	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.80 to 4.85	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.70 to 4.75	"
Foochow Sugar Candy...	11.55 to 11.60	"
Sack loom	9.95 to 10.00	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Hongkong Maru*, sailed on the 8th Feb. For San Francisco:—200 packages tea. For San Francisco:—5 cases silk goods. For Acapulco:—2 cases silk goods. For San José de Guatemala:—1 case silk goods. For La Union:—4 cases silk goods. For Guayaquil:—2 cases silk goods. For Whitehall:—200 bales waste silk. For New York:—116 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Sarnia*, sailed on the 14th February. For Padang:—185 rolls matting. For Havre:—1 bale goatskins, 12 rolls matting, 15 bales feathers, 56 rolls mats, 61 cases gall nuts, 125 bales hides, and 347 bamboos. For Havre and/or Hamburg:—3 cases ylang ylang, 15 cases bristles, and 95 bales horns. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—573 cases

camphor. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London and/or Antwerp and/or Marseilles:—52 cases albumin. For Hamburg:—1 case gongs, 2 cases Chinaware, 3 cases brassware, 4 cases curios, 4 cases sundries, 5 cases cymbals, 6 cases fans, 10 cases bristles, 11 cases cigars, 12 bales cowhides, 15 bags wood oil nuts, 15 packages canes, 16 bales rhubarb, 26 cases tea, 23 cases machinery, 46 rolls matting, 148 cases gallnuts, 289 bales feathers, and 2,321 cases camphor. For Hamburg and/or London:—24 cases bristles and 37 bales feathers. For Bremen:—31 bales feathers and 120 bales tobacco. For Antwerp:—68 bales feathers and 81 bales tobacco. For Milan and/or Novara and/or Arona:—250 bales waste silk.

Per steamer *China*, sailed on the 17th February. For San Francisco:—127 packages tea. For Panama:—2 cases silk goods. For New York:—20 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Tonkin*, sailed on the 25th Feb. For France:—184 bales raw silk, 250 bales waste silk, 5 bales pumjum silk, 3 packages silks, 85 packages tea, 3 cases hair, 7 cases books, &c. 11 packages canes, 100 bambooware, and 1 roll matting. For Milan:—5 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Dardanus*, sailed on the 26th February. For London:—100 bales waste silk, 15 cases cigars, 96 cases palm leaf fans, 11 cases blackwoodware, 19 cases furniture, and 7 packages sundries. For Liverpool:—2 packages sundries. For Glasgow:—100 cases ginger and 1 case effects.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 10th March.—Bengal.—The market has ruled quiet and there has been a slight drop in prices for Benares. Closing quotations are:—Patna \$822½, New Benares \$815, and Old Benares \$835.

Malwa.—There has been very little doing during the past week and the market closes weak at the following figures:—

New Malwa \$700 with all'ce from 6/16 to 1½ catty.
Old (2 yrs.) \$730 " " 0 to 1½ "
" (3/4 ") \$750 " " 0 to 1 "
" (5/6 ") \$800 " " 0 to 1 "
" (7/8 ") \$850 " " 0 to 2½ "

Persian.—There have been very few sales during the past week, but the better quality of Paper-tied Opium still continues to be in demand. Quotations are:—Only \$550 to \$650 and Paper-tied \$650 to \$750 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	1,953	chests
New Benares	63	"
Old Benares	177	"
Malwa	84½	"
Persian	1,207	"

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1989	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mar. 4	822½	837½	815	—	700	—
Mar. 5	822½	837½	817½	—	700	—
Mar. 6	822½	837½	817½	—	700	—
Mar. 7	822½	837½	817½	—	700	—
Mar. 8	822½	837½	817½	—	700	—
Mar. 9	822½	837½	817½	—	700	—
Mar. 10	822½	835	815	—	700	—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 10th March.—A further fall in prices is reported. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.65 to 2.70
" Round, good quality	2.95 to 3.00
" Long	3.35 to 3.40
Siam, Field, mill Cleaned, No. 2 ...	3.15 to 3.20
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	3.30 to 3.35
" White	3.75 to 3.80
" Fine Cargo	4.00 to 4.05

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 10th March.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARNS AND PIECE GOODS:—*Bombay Yarn*.—1650 bales No. 10 at \$67 to \$85.50, 700 bales No. 12 at \$73 to \$80.50, 250 bales No. 16 at \$79 to arrive to \$86, 650 bales No. 20 at \$80 to \$88. *White Shirtings*.—1,000 pieces Blue Ship at \$4.37½, 750 pieces Blue Ship at \$2.25, 150 pieces E K at \$5.92½, 100 pieces D K at \$4.92½. *Bengal Cotton*.—100 bales at \$16.75, 50 bales at \$17, 26 bales at \$17.10, 50 bales at \$17. No 30/32 Yarn.—50 bales Mandarin at \$118.

Metals.—200 piculs Wire Nail Iron at \$5.60, 2,520 piculs Square, Round, and Flat Bars Iron at \$4.25 to arrive.

SHANGHAI, 4th March.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report.)—*Piece Goods*.—The market has continued extremely quiet throughout the week in every department. Early in the interval advices were received that the Peiho was open the greater part of the way up to Tientsin. The Steamer Companies therefore determined to despatch their vessels at once, irrespective of the wishes of the Piece Goods men. Some eight or ten have left this within the last two or three days; they carry however, little else but Rice and General Cargo, the only Cotton Goods or Yarn being on Foreign account, the Natives deciding not to ship until about the 9th or 10th inst. The delay is likely to increase the shipments, which are now expected to reach 55,000 packages, a quantity the dealers evidently think will be sufficient to thoroughly try the market, and consequently they are anxious to lay in further supplies at present. There is likewise considerable uncertainty about the near future, on account of the persistent rumours that troops have been ordered to mobilise from all parts of the country in the neighbourhood of Tientsin and Peking, which certainly looks as though some important movement, by those in authority, is on the tapis and has to be guarded against. No doubt when the steamers return some light will be thrown on the subject and the dealers will know better how to act. Meanwhile clearances are going on cheap in the open market, so much so that in several instances lately goods have been paid for before arrival, to make sure of the Exchange. There is quite a dearth of news from the Outports, and judging by the Auction results, as well as the smallness of the current trade, very few orders have come in since the holidays. The market is improving for Fancy Goods, but much higher prices are wanted now before indents can be put through for Dyed makes, owing to the recent strike amongst operatives in Manchester, which will add about three pence a piece to the cost of dyeing from the first of next month. In spite of this, however, further orders have been booked for Fast Black Italians. The market has been as quiet for Yarn as for goods. A slight decline in prices in Japan has had the effect of scaring speculative holders here, who are anxious to realise now and have dropped the price a taal per bale. Indian and Local spinnings are steady to firm, so far, especially the latter, owing to the high price wanted still for Native cotton, the dealers in which are trying to wriggle out of contracts made at low prices or to pass off wet and inferior cargo. It is satisfactory to see the Mills are making a firm stand against these impositions.

Metals, 6th March.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bieffeld & Co.'s Report).—*Metals*.—A fair business has been done, as per the following:—400 tons London Shoes 83s. 6d. c.i.f.c.; 150 tons Selected Scrap 74s. c.i.f.c.; 50 tons Selected Steel Scrap 1-lb. up 78/6d. c.i.f.c.; 150 tons London Tyres 104s. c.i.f.c.; 60 cases Plain Galvanised Iron 28 G 214.5.0 c.i.f.c.; 200 tons Glasgow Horse Shoes 86s. c.i.f.c.; 225 tons Belgium Bar Iron 2.85/3.10 spot.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 10th March.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.46
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.49½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.99½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	146
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	146
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73
Private, 30 days' sight	74

ON YOKOHAMA.

On demand.....4 1/2 % pm.

ON MANILA.

On demand.....1 1/2 % pm.

ON SINGAPORE.

On demand.....1 % pm.

SOVEREIGNS. Bank's Buying Rate...10.19

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael.....53.75

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 10th March.—A fair general business has been transacted during the week and rates have ruled steady in most cases.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai continue quiet at 270 per cent. prem. with sellers and small sales for cash, and with sales at 281 for June and 284 for July. Nationals have changed hands at \$18 1/2 and \$18.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have found small buyers at \$230, and Traders at \$63. Cantons have changed hands in small lots at \$146 and \$145, and Straits at \$5 1/2. Yangtzes remain quiet with sellers at \$120, and North Chinas with small sales at quotation.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Both Hongkongs and Chinas continue out of favour, with small sales at \$297 1/2 and \$88 1/2 respectively.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have found buyers at \$27 1/2 and \$28, closing steady at the latter rate. Indo-Chinas have changed hands in small lots at \$68 and \$67 1/2, but sellers at latter rate rule the market for cash; on time sales have been effected at \$71 and \$70 for June. China Manilas have been placed at \$100 and close quieter at \$98. Douglases have been negotiated to a considerable extent at \$57 1/2 and \$58 for cash and close firm at the latter rate. China Mutuals continue in demand without bringing any shares on the market.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled easier and after fair sales at \$182 1/2 and \$182 are on offer at \$181. Luzons have ruled weak with sellers at \$52 and no sales.

MINING.—Punjoms continue weak with a few sales at \$5 50 for ordinaries and sellers of preferences at quotation (\$1.25). Charbonnages have improved considerably, consequent upon orders from Paris for shares and the rumour that the French Government intend purchasing most of the Company's property at Hongay to carry out a scheme of fortification. Shares have changed hands at \$125, \$127 1/2, \$130, \$135, and \$140, the market closing at \$14 1/2. Queen Mines have been the medium of a large business at from 15 cents to \$1 and close steady at the latter rate. Jelebus have changed hands at \$8.25 and Oliver's B and Great Easterns at quotations. Raubs on the receipt of a good crushing for January and February (2,900 oz. from 2,450 tons) rose to \$63 with sales; the rate, however, was not long maintained and gradually fell to \$61, at which market closes quiet.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue quiet and a small sale is reported at 314 per cent. prem. after sales at 319 for 31st instant; a demand, however, for shares further ahead remains unsatisfied. Kowloon Wharves remain more or less out of the market at \$81 and a small cash forced sale at \$80 has been made. Wanchais have found buyers at quotation.

LANDS, HOUSES, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands remain dull with sellers at \$78 1/2 and sales at \$78. Hotels have been negotiated at \$79, \$80, and \$81, closing steady at the last named rate. Humphreys Estates have found small buyers at \$9, but larger lots are still on offer at that rate. West Points steady at \$28 but without business.

COTTONS.—Hongkongs are obtainable at \$85. Ewos have found local buyers at Tls. 75 and Tls. 78. Other quotations are taken from the last Shanghai circulars, in the absence of any local business.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands remain dull and neglected without business. Watsons have changed hands and ruled steady at quotations. Electrics, with sellers and no buyers at \$12, have receded to \$11 1/2 with sales. Fenwicks have found buyers at \$34, \$34 1/2, and \$35, and China Providents at \$9.10 and \$9.20, the latter closing quiet with sellers at \$9.20. Star Ferries have changed hands at quotation.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

(COMPANY)	SALES	BUYERS	REMARKS
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	270 p. ct.	rem., = \$462.50
China & Japan, prf.	\$5	nominal	
Do. ordinary	\$4	\$1, sales	
Do. deferred	\$1	\$5.5s.	
Natl. Bank of China			
B. Shares	\$8	\$20, buyers	
Foun. Shares...	\$1	\$20, buyers	
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	\$1	nominal	
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$10, sales	
China Prov. L. & M....	\$10	\$9.20, sellers	
China Sugar	\$100	\$180, buyers	
Cotton Mills—			
Ewo.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 78, buyers	
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 84	
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 84	
Soychee	Tls. 600	Tls. 400	
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 55	
Hongkong	\$100	\$55, sellers	
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$5	
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$35, buyers	
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$26 1/2, sales	
Do. New Issue	\$5	\$25 1/2	
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$33	
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	\$10	\$126	
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$11 1/2, buyers	
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$130, buyers	
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$81	
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$112, sellers	
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$81, sellers	
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$180	
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$14, p. ct. rem., = \$517.50	
Insurance—			
Canton.....	\$50	\$145, sellers	
China Fire	\$20	\$85 1/2, sellers	
China Traders'	\$25	\$63, sales & sellers	
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$30, sellers	
North-China	\$25	Tls. 164, buyers	
Straits	\$20	\$5 1/2, buyers	
Union	\$50	\$230, sales & sel.	
Yangtze	\$60	\$120, sellers	
Land and Building—			
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$50	\$78 1/2	
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9	
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$19, buyers	
West Point Building	\$40	\$28	
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$52, sellers	
Mining—			
Charbonnages.....	Fcs. 500	\$145	
Gl. Estn. & C'orian	\$5	\$5	
Jelebu	\$5	\$8 1/2, sellers	
Queens Mines Id....	25c.	\$1	
Over's Mines, A....	\$5	\$7, sellers	
Do. B.....	\$3 1/2	\$5.10	
Punjom	\$5	\$5 1/2, sellers	
Do. Preference.	\$1	\$1.25, sales	
Raubs	14s. 10d.	\$61, sellers	
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$16, sales	
Steamship Coys.—			
China and Manila...	\$50	\$98, sellers	
China Mutual Pref.	\$10	\$9, 10s., buyers	
Do. Ordinary	\$10	\$5, 10s., buyers	
Do. Do.	\$5	\$3, buyers	
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$58	
H., Canton and M....	\$15	\$28, buyers	
Indo-China S. N. ...	\$10	\$67 1/2, sellers	
Star Ferry	\$7 1/2	\$12.25, sellers	
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	\$5	\$5, sellers	
Do.	\$2	\$3, sellers	
United Asbestos	\$2	\$1.50, buyers	
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal	
Wanchai Warehouse...	\$37 1/2	\$39 1/2, sales	
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$13 1/2, sal. & sellers	

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 6th March.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—The market has been active, and there has been a general improvement in rates. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Cash shares were sold on the 2nd at 270 per cent. premium, but buyers coming into the market, business was done on the 3rd at 275 per cent. premium. National Bank of China.—Shares changed hands at \$20. Marine Insurance.—Unions were placed, and are offering, at \$230. Cantons were sold at \$140. Straits are offering at \$6 1/2, and there were sales in Singapore at \$5. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares were placed at Tls. 49 cash and Tls. 50 1/2, for the 30th April. There are sellers in Hongkong at \$68. China Mutual S. N. shares, both Preference and Ordinary, are wanted. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares are wanted at Tls. 40, but are held for higher rates. China Sugar Refining shares have been in strong demand on account of a good report, and the news of a final dividend of \$12 being recommended by the General Managers. Local business was done for March at \$182 and for cash at \$180. Luzon Sugar Refining shares were placed at \$55. Mining.—Punjom Mining shares were purchased

from Hongkong at \$6 1/2. Raub Australian Gold Mining shares changed hands at \$60. Docks, Wharves & Godowns.—Shares in Boyd & Co. were placed at Tls. 200. S. C. Farnham & Co. shares were sold at Tls. 170, Tls. 175 and Tls. 180. Shanghai Engineering & Dock Preference shares were placed at Tls. 101. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf shares have continued to change hands at Tls. 140. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were sold, to a considerable extent, at Tls. 83/82 1/2. Industrial.—Cotton Mill Shares: Ewos were placed at Tls. 70/78, Internationals at Tls. 89/85 cash, and Tls. 85 for the 31st current, and Laonkung-mows at Tls. 83/85 cash, and Tls. 85/86 for the 31st current. Shanghai Ice shares were sold, and are wanted, at Tls. 28. Tugs & Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Cargo Boat Co., Ltd.—Shares were sold at Tls. 150 ex dividend. Taku Tug & Lighter shares are wanted. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares changed hands at Tls. 67 1/2 cash and Tls. 68 for the 31st current. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco old shares ex new were placed at Tls. 66. Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares were placed at Tls. 67 1/2, and Hall & Holtz shares at \$81 1/2. Loans.—Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf 6 per cent. Debentures were sold at Tls. 100 1/2 and Country Club Debentures at Tls. 100. Six per cent. Debenture are wanted.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 6th March (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—Our homeward freight market has undergone no change during the past fortnight, rates remaining unchanged, while the amount of cargo going forward is about in keeping with recent departures. Coastwise.—The Tientsin trade has once more been resumed, several steamers having left here on the 3rd instant. For coal from Japan tonnage is wanted, but at the moment there are no steamers available. A demand exists for trip charter from Hankow to Swatow, but no vessel can be found particularly anxious to treat for the unprofitable remuneration offered. For New York via Cape.—At last a charter has been effected for this business, the *McLaurin* having been fixed to load here and at Hongkong. The price paid has not transpired, but charterers are booking small lots of cargo at 19s. It is intended to despatch her from this about the end of current month. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Baltimore via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Königsberg via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; Havre, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s. Above rates are subject to a deferred rebate, as per Conference circular. Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net. 35s. per ton of 20 cwt. net for above three ports. New York, by sail, 19s. nominal. New York via Pacific, 1 gold cent per lb. tea, 6 cents per lb. silk, \$10 per ton strawbrid. New York via Suez, 27s. 6d. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 27s. 6d. for tea, all net. Boston, 35s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 40s. for tea, all net. Coast rates:—Mojito to Shanghai \$1.45 per ton coal, nominal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.45 per ton coal, nominal; Newchwang to Kobe closed; Newchwang to Swatow closed; Newchwang to Canton closed; Wuhu to Canton 13 cents.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—*Bombay* (str.), *Menelaus* (str.), *Glenavry* (str.), *Parramatta* (str.), *Wakasa Maru* (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—*Bayern* (str.).
FOR MARSEILLES.—*Sydney* (str.), *Wakasa Maru* (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Willenberg* (str.), *Nurnberg* (str.).
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—*Coptic* (str.), *City of Rio de Janeiro* (str.), *America Maru* (str.), *Queen Margaret*.
FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B.C. AND TACOMA.—*Glenogle* (str.).
FOR PORTLAND, O.—*Lennox* (str.).
FOR SAN DIEGO.—*Carmarthenshire* (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.—*Moyuna* (str.).
FOR AUSTRALIA.—*Taiyuan* (str.), *Airlie* (str.).
FOR STRAITS AND BOMBAY.—*Peshwar* (str.).
FOR STRAITS AND CALCUTTA.—*Kulsang* (str.).
FOR THURSDAY ISLAND.—*Katani Maru* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

February—

ARRIVALS.

- 4, Shansi, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 4, Kutsang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 4, Chusan, British str., from Bombay.
- 4, Lennox, British str., from Portland.
- 4, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 4, Ebani, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 4, Ingraban, German str., from Saigon.
- 4, Istria, Austrian str., from Kobe.
- 4, Taifu, German str., from Moji.
- 4, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
- 5, C. H. Kian, British str., from Singapore.
- 5, Cowrie, British str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Glenesk, British str., from Kobe.
- 5, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 5, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 5, Nanyetsu Maru, Jap. str., from Saigon.
- 5, Sultan, British str., from Saigon.
- 5, Ulysses, British str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Yoroime Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 5, Queen Margaret, British sh., from N. York.
- 6, Loyal, German str., from Hongay.
- 6, Kinai Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 6, Dos Hernanos, Amr. str., from Manila.
- 6, Sulberg, German str., from Manila.
- 6, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
- 6, Hainan, German str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Keongwai, British str., from Bangkok.
- 6, Nanchang, British str., from Java.
- 7, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
- 7, City of Rio de Janeiro, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
- 7, Bayern, British str., from Bremen.
- 7, Hermione, British str., from Weihaiwei.
- 7, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
- 7, Sado Maru, Japanese str., from Singapore.
- 7, Canton, British str., from Iloilo.
- 7, Tamarind, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
- 8, Tientsin, British str., from Wuhu.
- 8, Manila, British str., from Yokohama.
- 8, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
- 8, Kiangpak, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
- 8, Toyo Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
- 8, Africa, Portuguese transport, from Macao.
- 8, Loosok, British str., from Bangkok.
- 9, Kaiserin Elizabeth, Aust. str., from S'pore.
- 9, Doyo Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
- 9, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 9, Haiching, British str., from Glasgow.
- 10, Fukui Maru, Jap. str., from Karatsu.
- 10, Katsuyama Maru, Jap. str., from Saigon.
- 10, Konoura Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 10, Sydney, French str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 10, Salvador, Amr. str., from Manila.
- 10, Whampoa, British str., from Swatow.
- 10, Trieste, Austrian str., from Kobe.
- 10, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
- 10, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.

February— DEPARTURES.

- 4, Coromandel, British str., for Europe.
- 4, Marie Jebsen, Ger. str., for Hongay.
- 4, Swatow, German str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Kwongsang, British str., for Tientsin.
- 4, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
- 4, Hitachi Maru, Jap. str., for London.
- 4, Oopack, British str., for London.
- 4, Antenor, British str., for London.
- 4, Rosetta, British str., for Yokohama.
- 4, Chusan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Tritos, German str., for Saigon.
- 5, Prometheus, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Nippon Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Wongkoi, British str., for Swatow.
- 5, Deuterios, German str., for Hoihow.
- 5, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
- 5, Quarta, German str., for Saigon.
- 5, Bonaventure, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Hating, French str., for Hoihow.
- 6, Istria, Austrian str., for Trieste.
- 6, Tartar, British str., for Vancouver.
- 7, Moeve, German gunboat, for Amoy.
- 7, Powerful, British cruiser, for Manila.
- 7, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
- 7, Maroc, French str., for Saigon.
- 7, Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 7, Progress, German str., for Touron.
- 7, Cheang H. Kian, British str., for Amoy.
- 7, Ulysses, British str., for London.
- 7, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.

- 7, Cowrie, British str., for Saigon.
- 7, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Chittagong, British str., for Saigon.
- 7, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 7, Germania, German str., for Hongay.
- 7, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
- 8, Bayern, German str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Hohenzollern, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
- 8, Kinai Maru, Jap. str., for Bangkok.
- 8, Ingraban, German str., for Saigon.
- 8, Machew, British str., for Swatow.
- 8, Glenesk, British str., for London.
- 8, St. Mark, Amr. ship, for Newcastle.
- 8, Hinsang, British str., for Swatow.
- 9, Chwnahan, British str., for Swatow.
- 9, Clara, German str., for Hoihow.
- 9, Kong Beng, British str., for Saigon.
- 9, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 9, Canton, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Sado Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
- 9, Nanyetsu Maru, Jap. str., for Saigon.
- 9, Manila, British str., for London.
- 10, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Tamarind, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
- 10, Trym, Norwegian str., for Kelung.
- 10, Yoroime Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
- 10, Shansi, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Chusan*, for Hongkong from London, Col. Saml. B. Dick, Miss Harriett A. Dick, Miss H. Bakewell, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wood, Messrs. John Dickie, G. R. Frampton, Henry Sykes, Mrs. Armstrong and child, Messrs. Hanwick and Gordon, Miss H. David, Miss Park, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Layng and 3 children, Messrs. J. R. Hutton, R. S. Menzies, P. T. Wessel, Commodore F. Powell, C.B., Mrs. Powell and child, 3 Misses Powell, Mr. F. F. Harrison, Paymaster F. J. Molton and Mr. R. Butcher; from Marseilles, Mr. A. Van Noorden; from Brindisi, Capt. Shunk, and Mr. John R. McArthur; from Gibraltar, Mr. A. M. Pinheiro; from Colombo, Messrs. Baxter and J. E. James, Bishop Garcia, Rev. M. Casanova, Rev. L. Perez, and Rev. Brother Eleuterio; from Singapore, Messrs. T. H. C. Arensoma, C. A. Core, and Demmie. For Shanghai from London, Messrs. O. Malley Irwin and J. E. Jackson; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. C. Platt and infant, Mr. S. F. Bridges, Mons. R. l'Anjon and Miss G. l'Anjon; from Ismailia, Mr. Hartnoll and 2 Misses Hartnoll; from Colombo, Mrs. Drysdale, Mrs. MacDonald, Mr. Walter A. Cox, Miss M. E. Cox; from Singapore, Mr. W. Cross. For Yokohama from London, Mrs. and Miss Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Robertson, Messrs. C. H. Lyall, Beresford Pearce, Poonsfield, W. O. Cantley, Mr. J. C. and Mrs. Churton, and Miss Lloyd; from Marseilles, Surg.-Gen. and Mrs. Hamilton; from Venice, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hill; from Brindisi, Mr. Evan Powell; from Ismailia, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Levy; from Calcutta, Mr. and Mrs. Healy; from Singapore, Mr. Kologrivoff, Miss Muspratt, and Mr. T. Walker.

Per *Bayern*, from Bremen, &c., Mrs. M. Plaschke and son, Dr. Migairi, Mr. C. Guinness and family, Miss Lucas, Miss Robinson, Mrs. I. Baynes, Mr. and Mrs. Goetz, Dr. K. Kishinouye, Mr. and Miss Hicks, Mrs. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Baker, Miss Lake, Mr. Edward and family, Miss L. C. Ogden, Miss Bruce, Mr. and Mrs. v. Winning, Mr. and Mrs. Woworsky, Lieut. F. Kultz, Messrs. D. Warkentin, C. Th. Menke, Geo. Olmi, J. v. Diefenbach, J. H. Ryland, W. T. J. Gun, C. Heinold, Mrs. McGillyendy Denny, Messrs. C. Sternberg and H. J. Bock, Mr. and Mrs. Farrell, Messrs. F. Rupprecht and W. Haffner, Miss A. Wagner, Capt. J. Bruhn, Mr. and Mrs. Watson, and Mr. J. Empson.

Per *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. Eliza Cormor, Mrs. W. E. Kaelin, Dr. H. C. Cure, Mr. E. H. Wedekind, Miss C. Douglas, Mrs. C. E. Smith, Miss E. Smith, Messrs. W. H. Kelly, E. J. Bates, M. Rawlinson, Col. J. R. McGuinness, Mr. C. F. Davis, Dr. W. L. Adams, Mr. D. E. Brown, Mrs. G. E. Gelen, Messrs. N. Tokizawa, E. Siller, J. M. Ferguson, M. Tarosawa, and K. G. Stuart.

DEPARTED.

Per *Coromandel*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Mr. A. M. Marshall; for Bombay, Messrs. B. Nowroji, D. D. Bhosania, and H. Shekh Abdolly; for Marseilles, Messrs. Tucker and Thos. Brookett; for London, Mr. W. H. Woodward,

Rev. and Mrs. Williams, Mr. T. H. Stidston, R.N., Inspector and Mrs. Baker and 2 children, Mr. C. Murr, and Rev. and Mrs. Steel. From Shanghai for Colombo, Mr. C. Christensen; for Marseilles, Messrs. E. Souther, R. Adamson, and Master Macleod; for London, Rev. and Mrs. Jackson and 2 children, Messrs. F. E. Shindler and Wm. Key, Mr. and Mrs. Cormack and 2 children, Miss Nilson, and Mr. Bolton. From Snanghai, for London via Marseilles, Mrs. and Miss Coutts. From Yokohama for Bombay, Mr. A. M. G. Macmillan; for London, Messrs. E. E. P. Baker, R. A. Eddie, and A. MacDonald.

Per *Chusan*, for Shanghai from Hongkong, Mr. A. M. Reid, Mr. and Mrs. Diederichsen, Miss R. Grukman, Miss May, Messrs. H. B. Allen, W. E. Leveson, MacLeod, and Mrs. Montgomery; from London, Messrs. O. Malley Irwin, J. E. Jackson, W. D. P. Watson, and Miss Duthoit; from Marseilles, Mr. W. A. C. and Mrs. Platt and child, Mr. S. F. Bridges, Mons. and Miss l'Anjon, and Mrs. J. F. Anderson; from Ismailia, Mr. and 2 Misses Hartnoll; from Brindisi, Mr. W. Newman; from Colombo, Mrs. Drysdale, Mrs. MacDonald, Mr. W. A. Cox, Miss M. C. Cox, and Col. T. Wood; from Singapore, Mrs. W. Cross.

Per *Rosetta*, from Hongkong for Kobe, Mr. K. Gudelius; for Yokohama, Messrs. M. S. Holloway, J. Kerr, and Mrs. R. W. Borthwick. For Yokohama; from London, Mr. and Miss Knight, Mr. and Mrs. T. Robertson, Messrs. C. H. Lyall, B. Pierce, Bonsfield, W. O. Cantley, Miss J. Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Churton, and Miss Lloyd; from Marseilles, Surg. Genl. and Mrs. Hamilton; from Venice, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hill; from Brindisi, Mr. E. Powell; from Ismailia, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Levy; from Calcutta, Mr. and Mrs. F. Healy; from Singapore, Mr. Kologrivoff, and Miss Muspratt.

Per *Nippon Maru*, for Shanghai, Mrs. A. Forest, Messrs. W. K. Price, W. S. K. Watmore, R. E. Toeg, Rev. J. E. Munger, Mr. Sid Bock Yin, Mrs. Chew She, Miss Sid Heung, Baron G. de Gunznurz, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Poate, Messrs. H. W. Hogg, C. N. Bandford, and A. Mallone; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Rivers, Capt. Tomioku, and Marquis Ito; for Honolulu, Mr. S. G. Wieler; for San Francisco, Capt. S. S. Saxton, Messrs. N. Hacklander, P. Maillour, D. McGowan, E. Brown, P. McLaughlin, R. J. Davis, J. C. Tubbs, A. Heck, L. E. Nuzman, J. F. Sanders, D. A. Gardner, J. W. Montgomery, G. M. Donovan, H. M. Pashop, W. E. Anglin, I. P. Ingle, W. E. Jewell, A. Sparrow, L. Seyer, C. A. Core, F. Coates, M. Muller, and W. Props; for London, Mr. F. A. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. F. Healy, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Levy; for Hamburg, Mr. A. Pustau.

Per *Bayern*, for Shanghai from Southampton, Mr. and Miss King, Mr. and Mrs. Graham, Mrs. A. Browne and children, Mr. and Mrs. St. Seyfarth, Messrs. A. Herzberg, A. Bjorgum, S. Bjorgum, M. Dewal, F. Crowther, Britton, A. Wilson, Young, Nathan, Boston, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. King; from Genoa, Messrs. S. v. Goes, R. B. Baur, B. Kranse, T. S. Yen, L. Sung, Li, Rev. Father Placedo and 3 Colleagues, Messrs. F. Laegner, F. Schwalb, B. Gumpel, Misses A. Ludwig, Wood, Turner, and Smith, Dr. A. Deuthwaite, Mr. and Mrs. Faucar and children, Mr. G. Nan and 2 Colleagues, Messrs. B. Kahlbein and W. Kahlbein; from Bremen, Mr. R. Schone; from Colombo, Mr. C. G. Igelstrom; from Hongkong, Messrs. W. Blaynay, J. Hermanos, von Meister, D. Walker, James Cowrie, A. Selbig, Mrs. Encarnacao and children, Mrs. A. Kuhn, Consul E. F. Bennett, Messrs. A. K. Rhoden, T. T. Bennett, H. Franklin, Dean Keeth, H. Baxter, W. Hamilton, Mrs. T. E. Ewans, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Pettican and child, Pastor and Mrs. Consens, Mrs. M. Curtis and infant, and Miss M. Douglas.

Per *Hohenzollern*, for Yokohama from Bremen, Reg. Rath, Dr. K. Migaeni; from Southampton, Mrs. C. Guinness and children, Messrs. Robinson and M. Lucas, Misses E. and B. Lucas; from Genoa, Mrs. T. Boynes; from Naples, Dr. K. Kishinouye; from Colombo, Misses L. E. Ogden and Brace; from Singapore, Mrs. McGillyuddy Denny; from Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. S. V. Remedios.